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DELIVERED BEFORE

THE SOCIETY OF THE ALUMNI

OF

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE,

AT THEIR FIRST TRIENNIAL MEETING,

JULY 25, 1855.

BY

SAMUEL GILMAN BROWN,

PROFESSOR IN THE COLLEGE.

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.

5 CONCORD, N. H.:
PRESS OF McFARLAND & JENKS.
1856.

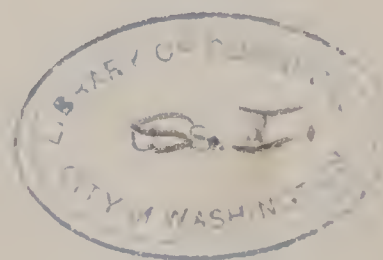
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ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE ALUMNI :

You cannot feel too deeply, nor can I strongly enough express, the disappointment under which we all labor, that no one of the eminent men whom you earnestly solicited, fresh from fields of hard won fame, from toil and strife in that great world which, from our retreats, we look upon with curiosity and perhaps envy, should have inaugurated this your filial enterprise ; should have stood here as the organ and minister of that ever benignant Mother, who waits in matronly dignity this day, to receive the congratulations of her children — her arms outstretched, as of old — a mother's welcome on her tongue — a mother's pride overflowing her heart. Next to a failure, I am afraid you will think it, that almost on the eve of our festival, the surely not ungrateful labor should have been thrown upon hands already overtasked with the duties of the season. And yet you will remember, I am sure, that this is a day of enjoyment and not of criticism — a day of indulgence and festivity, of retrospection and of hope.

It is singular that we come together as a body of Alumni, in a public and formal manner, now for the

first time. Lustrum after lustrum has passed unnoticed. The semi-centennial year of the College, deserving to be marked by the whitest stone, signalized by that great decision which gave its charter new force and vitality, was marked by no general gathering as to a jubilee. And now, reckoning *ab incunabulis gentis*, a little more than a hundred years have passed since was first cast into the soil of a quiet town in Connecticut, the seed whose mature and transplanted product here spreads its shade and offers its fruit.

The occasion determines, in general, the subject proper to occupy our attention. Our thoughts turn first and instinctively to the College which early nurtured us, which opened for our inspection the science and literature of the world, led us onward with encouragement, and gave us some discipline for the sterner scenes of life. Our attention might naturally be called altogether to its history; to what it promised and what it has performed. Yet to follow such a plan to any good purpose, looking to the discerning of principles, would require great care and exactness, and a more protracted consideration than we are allowed; while to neglect it entirely — to recall none of the memories which are struggling for utterance — none of the central elements in the life of the College — would seem unnatural and unfilial.

One great difficulty lies in so selecting from ample, but unordered materials, as not to go beyond the proprieties of the day, and in so combining them as to give a unity of interest. Perhaps we shall best meet the wishes of the Association by looking at some of the objects, methods and difficulties of the College,

while we refer, so far as may be necessary, to the noticeable epochs and incidents in its history; so shall we the better judge how far we have reason to congratulate ourselves to-day, and for what it becomes us still to hope and strive.

A college is to be distinguished from a university, on the one hand, and from an academy, or special school, on the other. An attempt to unite elements that are properly distinct, and perhaps incongruous, or to compel either institution to perform the functions of the others, would be for the injury of all. In the spiritless compound would be found neither the sharpness of the acid, nor the vigor of the alkali. To give a high sounding name and a profusion of nominal officers, with no scholars to be taught, and no funds to support the empty dignity, is a fault on the one side, just as calling the mind back from liberal excursions over the field of the largest knowledge, and binding it to a single special course of study, would be a fault on the other. Different schools may move with harmony and mutual profit side by side, or in concentric orbits, each silently affecting, but not disturbing the other, but those cannot be blended without mutual injury, whose objects and methods, whose discipline and culture, are radically diverse.

A university has been defined to be "a sort of corporate establishment, instituted for the intellectual elevation of the community by means of publicly recognized teachers." "It exists for the purpose of training the people intellectually at that highest stage where education, strictly so called, ends, and the business of life begins. It is not an establishment for drilling boys, but for stimulating, enlightening, direct-

ing and elevating young men.”* A part of this definition will apply to our colleges. They are public institutions, whose object is to furnish the highest general education; an education which shall liberalize the mind and amply prepare it for professional study, or any sphere of active life. A college, then, in striving to realize its idea as an institution for a truly liberal education, aims primarily to impart a kind and degree of knowledge best suited to the nature of her pupil, and the ends she would subserve. She gives him some idea of the ever enlarging scope of the sciences; a knowledge of languages and of nations; a knowledge of civil economy, and of the laws of his own being. The inferior kinds of learning she subordinates to the superior; and by presenting knowledge in its vital organic connections, and not as if isolated, confers upon every part due honor. She unites discipline with attainment. She endeavors at once to inform and invigorate; so that what is highest in dignity may control the life, and the educated man, like a well trained army under a wise and energetic general, may move irresistibly over the fields of conquest.

So, too, within the scope of her abilities, would the college, as a disciplinary school, control and direct every moral faculty. She would fortify the student against the sorcery of pleasure. She would lay her hand upon every petulant temper, and soothe it to calmness; upon every ignoble purpose, and crush it out of existence. Every mind vacillating between the lower and the higher aims of life she would fix beyond possibility of change, that it might steadfastly

* North British Review, May, 1855.

hold on its way toward whatever is magnanimous and gentle, and pure and true.

Beside these influences, there are in every college others, beyond and without the prescribed curriculum, bearing with constant and effective pressure upon the mind, modifying and shaping its affections; influences none the less potent, because unseen and intangible; influences made up of all the traditions of the place, of all objects of art and culture, of prevailing opinions and customs, of the achievements and fame of its scholars; influences most effective with the finest minds, stimulating them to large endeavor, giving more seriousness to their meditations, more earnestness to their efforts; influences which gather strength with the rolling years, and become more potent with every name upon the enlarging catalogue.

This fact it is, among others, which gives a peculiar importance to the external condition of the college, the state of its buildings and grounds, its cabinets and apparatus. The observatory on the hill is an ever-present witness to the splendid achievements of the mind in one of the most mysterious fields of its labor. The library — how does it draw with ten thousand attractions toward scholarship and thought, and intellectual accomplishment. So too will the college edifices, if there be any architectural virtue in them, always be eloquent; for architecture is peculiarly public and universal in its influence. Its structures are built for the wear of centuries. Their beauty is not ripe till ages have rolled over them; till the footsteps of pilgrims have worn the pavements; till the record of saints is sculptured on their votive tablets; till the shrine of genius is erected within their enclos-

ures; till the faith, and love, and endeavor of generations, have sunk into their walls. Thus does a noble structure become a living representative, a kind of incarnation of the institution, the state, the age. And as the life of Athens still lingers, still shines in her ruined Parthenon, so does the existence and authority of a college or university become visible and tangible through its venerable buildings. In them it lives, though its officers and students pass away year by year towards

“The unfathomable gulf, where all is still.”

It grows hoary and venerable amidst the fluctuations of society,—a rock which the swift-rushing currents of time chafe and wear, but cannot move,—touching with influences sombre and gentle every finer soul, and moulding it all the more effectively, because by a pressure so soft, yet so constant.

To an imaginative mind every object of picturesqueness or beauty becomes an object of love. The spire that leaps heavenward, the bell that swings in the turret, each

——— “jutty, frieze,
Buttress or coigne of vantage,”

where the temple-haunting martlet

“Hath made his pendent bed and procreant cradle,”

is seized by the fancy and clung to with ever-increasing tenacity.

Perhaps we do not give prominence enough to these intangible, evanescent influences—the education of the sympathies, tastes, affections, prejudices if you please—the moving springs of the life of man,

which no future methods nor vicissitudes will essentially change. I have sometimes thought that in many a European university the least potent element of education is that of direct instruction. The *religio loci*, the recollections and traditions, the quiet walks, the lofty chapels, the spacious halls—these, during the most impressible years, are silently giving shape and direction to the life. Toward these centres come trooping the memories of the distinguished in science and letters, from Bacon to Whewell; from Spenser, a poor student, receiving in 1573 his first degree, to Tennyson, whose accumulated honors the plaudits of the theatre have scarcely ceased to echo. Lives there a soul so dull and earth-creeping as not to be touched by such influences? “In those apartments,” says the university to her docile pupil, “in those apartments, over yonder gateway, Newton elaborated his *Principia*; in that lodge died Richard Bentley; yonder the musical voice of Heber pronounced his prize poem; in that senate house stands the statue of William Pitt; in that hall Bacon, and Barrow, and Usher, and Burke, and Berkeley, look down from the silent canvas; that desk was once eloquent with the voice of Chalmers, of Stewart, of Arnold; the wondrous arch which spans yonder chapel was thrown across by a builder whose genius has been the marvel of every succeeding architect, but whose modesty and humility thought it of no consequence to record his name. Go you, my son, and by assiduous labor, by fidelity, by noble purpose, by magnanimous effort, deserve what they attained. ‘Remember, resemble, persevere.’ Let your life, like theirs, be wrought into that of the age in which you live, for the welfare of

man, for the glory of God." Are they few upon whom such influences are most powerful? In the fullest extent it may be so; yet the same may in part be said of the whole process of education; for it is a discouraging thought, that by the majority so little of instruction seems to be retained. Still we may underestimate the influences of education, both the direct and the indirect, even on the least promising. Much must be thrown into the common stock of impressions, sentiments, habits, which can be traced to no specific source, which cannot well be weighed or measured, but which is not to be disregarded in the final result on character. And there are always some minds sensitive to the noblest influences. If one such, of the highest order, comes in a quarter of a century, it is enough. The ponderous bells, "swinging slow with solemn roar," which caught the music-loving ear of Milton, and suggested the solemn lines in the *Penseroso*,—the "distant spires and antique towers," which prompted Gray's ode on the "Distant Prospect of Eton College,"—the "cloistered seclusion," and "grand halls, hung round with pictures by Verrio and Lely," which moved the imagination of Charles Lamb to writing the "Recollections of Christ's Hospital"—all these were doing a very evident work for the cultivation and refinement, the stability even, and the fame of England—for the cultivation and delight of all to whom Milton, and Gray, and Lamb are still companions and friends.

It was to realize some such idea of instruction and discipline, and general influence, that our fathers—trained in the severe schools of the old world, remembering the learning of Cudworth, and Hooker,

and Taylor, and Milton, and Baxter, and such as they, and fearing the perils of ignorance — devised that course of education, at once thorough and liberal, on which all the culture of an ample commonwealth might be grafted. They regarded the college, not in its relations to individuals alone, but as a power in the state, as the germ in which were held inclosed the organic forces which should at last blossom into the fullest, richest, most varied and complete forms of cultivated life. As the ideas at the basis of the public education were mean or liberal, contracted and distorted, or expansive and true, so, they thought, would in a large degree be the character of the commonwealth. Let us be grateful, thrice grateful, to them for their manly wisdom and their practical insight. The theories which would banish whatever learning cannot be turned to immediate account, which exalt an economical art at the expense of the more profound and far-reaching science ; which value the soul itself because it contrives so many ingenious machines, and not the machines as the mere ministers of the soul or evidences of its greatness, such theories they never heard of, or heard only to despise.

Hence they caught up those old languages which the subtle genius of the Greek and Roman had elaborated, in which are hidden all the civilization of antiquity ; hence they seized the high mathematics, among whose pure and severe demonstrations the serene spirits of Copernicus and Newton were wont to move ; and made them the immovable and ample foundation on which all other knowledge and discipline might rest. Upon and about this they gathered the theoretical and practical learning of the times.

They taught the mind to know and master itself; then thoroughly to master whatever science, whatever art came within the scope of its inquiries. They conceived the idea of “a complete and generous education,” somewhat according to the suggestion of Milton, as “that which fits a man to perform justly, skillfully, and magnanimously, all the offices, both private and public, of peace and war” — a result none the less to be aimed at, and striven for, though impossible fully to realize. It matters little that they were unacquainted with many things familiar to us. They had a purpose and plan, and did not work at random. They laid a foundation in anticipation of a structure far costlier, more ample and more beautiful than they themselves were able to rear.

With the hope of intellectual discipline, they also associated the idea of a religious culture. They seemed equally anxious to avoid irreligious learning and ignorant religion. They would save learning from sciolism and infidelity, and religion from bigotry and superstition. They were imbued with the general spirit of that theology of the seventeenth century, which, whether right or wrong, was never contemptible. Religious and theological learning was felt to be important, not merely as furnishing a moral guide, but as invigorating and inspiring the intellect; as raising us to the highest objects of contemplation, and affording the most substantial and fruit-bearing knowledge. The motto for the seal of Harvard College, adopted as early as 1650, was, “*In Christi gloriam.*” Somewhat later another was used, similar in import, “*Christo et ecclesiæ.*” One of the laws, liberties and orders of Harvard College, established by President Dunster as

early as 1642,* announces, that “every one should consider the main end of his life and studies, to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life;” and the next statute is: “Seeing the Lord giveth wisdom, every one shall seriously, by prayer in secret, seek wisdom of him.”†

The spirit in which Yale College was established was the same. Its corporation, composed entirely of clerical members, is a living and permanent evidence of its character. It was the religious element, and not a mere abstract love of learning, which stimulated the efforts of the fathers of the state, and drew forth funds from the liberal.

This spirit it was preëminently, which presided over the establishment of Dartmouth College. It is now a hundred years since Moor’s school, founded by Eleazer Wheelock, took its name from the benevolent farmer in Lebanon, Connecticut, who gave it a house and two acres of land. It was instituted for the education of Indian youth, in order that they might afterward carry back to their own people the seeds, both of civilization and Christianity. The history of that preliminary effort, its motives, its natural growth out of the spirit of the times, is yet to be written. A few years witnessed an enlargement, to some extent, of the school, and a still greater expansion of the ideas and purposes of its founders. They were no longer satisfied with a simple Indian school, but wished for a college, with a sufficiently ample charter, and larger immunities and privileges. They sought for it a situation where they might neither interfere with others, nor be overshadowed and hindered by others.

* Quincy’s Hist. of Harv. Univ., 1, 515. † *Ib.*, 1, 515.

One plan, not very seriously entertained, perhaps, was to remove it to lands on the Mississippi, given to officers engaged in the old French war; another, to establish it in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, where liberal subscriptions were raised; still another, to fix it at the city of Albany. Nor was it till after much travel, and the inspection of many places, that it was decided to rest upon these pine-clad plains, beneath the shadows of the granite mountains. Why this particular ground was selected; why in preference especially to the spot four miles south, the junction of streams, marking the courses of traffic, and offering the most favorable sites, I do not know; but this *region* was fixed upon through the liberal offers of Gov. Wentworth, both of land for its funds, and of his aid in securing a charter; and still further, in order that here, on the boundaries of two States, and far away under the northern skies, beyond any other college, it might be near the tribes whose welfare was a prominent design of its benefactors, and still be within reach of "English youth," as the charter terms them, to which it was freely open.

The charter of the college, dated in 1769, was drawn up with great care and skill. "Dartmouth College," said Mr. Webster, in 1818, "was established under a charter granted by the Provincial government; but a better constitution for a college, or one more adapted to the condition of things under the present, in all material respects, could not now be framed. Nothing in it was found to need alteration at the Revolution. * * * * A charter of more liberal sentiments, of wiser provisions, drawn with more care, or in a better spirit, could not be expected

at any time, or from any source.”* The year 1770 witnessed the first clearing in the woods; the building a few log huts, and the partial erection of a college edifice; and more than all, the actual commencement of instruction. The motto of the college seal, “*Vox clamantis in deserto*,” was vividly indicative of the actual condition of things. The inhabitants of the region were very few, and there was no prospect of rapid increase: it was difficult to conjecture whence the students should come, or how they could get here. There has hardly been a college established of late years, in our new States, which has not at its opening given a fairer promise of immediate prosperity.

The first twelve or thirteen years were years of special trial. Funds were small, instruction necessarily limited, and students few. The Revolutionary war, though it did not interrupt the college exercises and disperse the students, as at Harvard and Yale, must have diminished their number, and materially affected their spirit. In 1781 and '82 the number of graduates was only four; no larger than the first class that left the college. But from that time for thirty years, during the generally prosperous administration of the second President Wheelock and his coadjutors, it were moderate and almost stinted praise to say that the college moved onward with ever-increasing strength, offering the most reliable proof of the value of its discipline in the general stability and excellence, and the occasional eminence of its sons.

The venerable Eleazer Wheelock closed his active and variously useful life April 24, 1779. His “last will and testament” concerning the college, as ex-

* Works of Daniel Webster, vol. v., p. 499.

pressed in one of his narratives, is worthy the companion of the Edwardses and Brainerds of the age. "It is my purpose, by the grace of God, to leave nothing undone within my power, which is suitable to be done, that this school of the prophets may be, and long continue to be, a pure fountain. And I do with my whole heart, *will* this my purpose to my successors in the presidency of this seminary, to the latest posterity; and it is my last will, never to be revoked; and to God I commit it; and my only hope and confidence for the execution of it are in Him alone, who has already done great things, and does still own it as his cause; and blessed be his name, that every present member of it, as well as great numbers abroad, I trust, do join their hearty amen with me."

The year 1798 is distinguished by the establishment of the Medical School—a school illustrated by the genius of Nathan Smith, its projector and founder; of whom it has not been thought invidious to say that he did "more for the improvement of physic and surgery in New-England than any other man"* of his time; by the taste and skill of Cyrus Perkins; by the exquisite facility and penetration of James Freeman Dana; by the elegant learning and refinement, and all-embracing scholarship of Daniel Oliver; by the still longer and more ample services of others, whom I need not and ought not to mention, for the worth of them is so fresh in your memories; and still more generally and widely honored by the skill and success of those who have gone from it to their various posts of duty in the world.

Of the studies and discipline of that earlier period,

* Kingsley's notice of Yale Coll., Quart. Reg., Feb., 1836, p. 207.

I have not been able to learn a great deal. The requisitions for admission were low, the means of fitting for college were very imperfect, and many of the studies inadequately pursued. I remember hearing one of the older graduates say that the first lesson of his class in mathematics was twenty pages in Euclid, the instructor remarking that he should require only the captions of the propositions, but if any doubted the truth of them he might read the demonstrations, though for *his* part his mind was perfectly satisfied. In stories like this, however, we must allow something to the genius of the narrator, and may fairly be of the mind of that earnest reader of the travels of Capt. Lemuel Gulliver, when he roundly and independently asserted that "there were *some* things in the book which he could *not* believe."

To some important events in the history of the college—the founding of the two prominent Literary Societies, whose libraries have acquired so much value—the writing and acting of plays—the Quarter days—the *Carmen Sæculare*—we can barely allude.

Other early customs must be passed over almost as lightly. Owing in part to the later period at which Dartmouth was founded, and in part to its position, some methods of restraint and control familiar to the universities of England, and the oldest colleges in New-England, were never adopted in ours.

"The punishment of boxing or cuffing," once in vogue at Yale and Harvard, was never introduced here. According to President Woolsey, "It was applied before the Faculty to the luckless offender, by the President, towards whom the culprit, in a standing

position, inclined his head, while the blows fell in quick succession upon either ear. No one seems to have been served in this way except freshmen and commencing 'sophimores.' " At Harvard the energy of such modes of discipline was still more remarkable. On one occasion, according to the historian, a student, for speaking blasphemous words, was "sentenced to be publicly whipped before all the scholars. The exercise took place in the library, in presence of the Students, the Faculty, and such of the Overseers as chose to attend. The offender kneeled, the president prayed, the discipline was administered, and the solemnities closed by another prayer from the President." * Such ignoble punishments were dispensed with about the middle of the last century.

Another practice, quite as unusual now, continued to a later time, and gathered some strength here — that custom of the seniors exacting a certain amount of service from the freshmen. In the older colleges, long established custom had grown into an unwritten system of common law, against the violation of which public opinion, and sometimes the civil law itself, was brought to bear. It was early enacted at Harvard, among other things, that "No freshman shall wear his hat in the college yard, unless it rains, hails or snows, provided he be on foot, and have not both hands full." "No freshman shall speak to a senior, with his hat on; or have it on in a senior's chamber, or in his own, if a senior be there. All freshmen shall be obliged to go on any errand * * * for any of his seniors, graduates or undergraduates, at any time, except in study hours." †

* Quincy, I., 189. † *Ib.*, II., 539.

Similar customs prevailed with us, though they never consolidated into a system. Perhaps they never worked over-smoothly ; and at last, whether through the increasing ignorance and ineptitude of the freshmen, I will not say, the mistakes they made (if current reports be relied on) were so frequent — the almost miraculous changes which liquids and solids underwent in the passage from the shop where they were purchased, to the room where they were used, were so common — the oil sputtered so in the lamp, and the ink became so pale or so unctuous — that about the year 1795 the custom was entirely abandoned, and passed quietly away, among those few other usages which we remember with a smile.

Both these practices — the corporal punishment, and the subordination of one class to another — arose, and were sustained from the general feeling of society. The punishment was regarded much, I suppose, as the same is looked upon in the English schools of our day ; and that one class should render a moderate service to another was a practical demonstration of the principle of reverence for orders and ranks, which was generally accepted as healthful.

The first quarter of the century covers the most critical period in the history of the College — a period of difficulties, of struggle and contest. I would rather pass it over, would not the omission seem more censurable than a reference to it. After the lapse of more than a generation, we view the agitating events of those days in the calm light of history, giving credit for sincerity and earnest endeavor to both sides, and preserving our interest mainly in the issues that were determined. How the contest came to be com-

plicated with politics; how personal feeling, of necessity, inflamed the controversy, as the discussion became protracted and was found to involve such results, it is quite unnecessary to say. Let all that was temporary and accidental, all that was personal and private, sink into oblivion, and there yet rises before us a principle indestructible, and that cannot be forgotten — the faith and defence of which has added to the fame of many — the establishing of which has given security to every eleemosynary institution, to every charity in the land, if not, indeed, a stronger tenure to every most private trust. The guardians of the College were moved by a profound conviction of the justice, equity and vital consequence of the question. Otherwise, it might not then, at least, have received the thorough defence of Smith and Mason, Hopkinson and Webster, nor the luminous and ample decision of Marshall and Story — a decision which, not over-estimated, I suppose, in the judgment pronounced upon it by Chancellor Kent, has gone far beyond the immediate issue, and, by removing our colleges from the fluctuating influence of party and faction, has helped to make them what they should be — high neutral powers in the state; devoted to the establishing and inculcating of principles; where may shine the *lumen siccum* — the dry light of wisdom and learning, untinged by the vapors of the cave or the breath of the forum.

How earnest was the College for a thorough argument; what efforts she made to secure it, though, in her poverty, she was literally begging bread from door to door; how learned and subtle were the discussions; how long and anxiously the decision was waited for,

you, many of you well remember; and when at last the tidings came — one week from Washington — and the first sentence of the letter from Mr. Webster — “All is safe and certain,” — announced the result, the hearts of many sprung up with unwonted elasticity. The news was received by all friends of the College with profound joy; by some with exultation, by others with a more sober satisfaction, as at the demonstration and establishing of a vital principle. Some, perhaps, had already received monitions that the sands of their glass were running with strange swiftness, and nearly all were unusually divested of the feelings of personal litigants.

The College was probably never in better spirit for study, and every effort which becomes scholars, than at the period when so much existed to divert the attention. Revolutions are said to be fruitful of great men, and thus, perhaps, we may in part account for it, (*parvis componere magna*,) that so many of our distinguished alumni bear date from about that time. The future was indeed uncertain, instructors few and overtasked, funds scanty, but there remained a spirit which supplied every deficiency. The subjects familiarly discussed — the solitudes which the students in some measure shared — the uncertainties under which they labored — the sympathies which were excited — all furnished the best stimulus for intellectual improvement, and the best assurance of thoughtfulness and self-restraint.

The general course and spirit of every institution largely depends on its ruling minds. May I, without violation of propriety, advert to some of the men of that, and a later day, whose names are indissolubly

associated with the progress of ours. Of the permanent instructors, one still remains to receive our congratulations,* one to whom the young may look up with reverence, and whom the old may greet as a friend; changed a little in appearance, like the old familiar house he has so long lived in, but within, the same generous heart and sagacious mind. Another† — it seems but as yesterday that his familiar and venerable form moved amongst us — was gathered to his fathers, full of years and of honor. How can we help remembering with gratitude his serene and pure life, his simplicity of character, his scrupulous and conspicuous integrity, his untiring fidelity. Of yet another who had some share in the general responsibilities of the day, some part in the multifarious works of instruction and government, it does not become me to speak. *Admiratione te potius quam temporalibus laudibus, et si natura suppeditet, emulatione decoremus.*

If from the officers of the College we turn our attention to its board of Trustees for the first quarter of the century, we shall find quite an uncommon collection of persons of eminent intellectual ability. Some united thorough learning in the law with the far-reaching views of statesmen. Some were profound metaphysicians and theologians. There were men well versed in affairs, men of immovable firmness, of unsullied probity, of deep religious convictions.

There rises first before the memory the somewhat attenuated and angular form of Nathaniel Niles — a schoolmate of the elder Adams, whom he loved his life long, and mainly, it would seem, because at school John Adams was the terror of the big bad

* Rev. Dr. SHURTLEFF. † Prof. ADAMS.

boys, who, in his absence, would oppress the little ones,—a graduate of Nassau Hall,—a follower of Jefferson in politics, yet practically rather conservative, and of Calvin in theology, yet apparently sometimes verging toward his opponents,—an acute metaphysician, a little inclined to the opposite side,—half author, in conjunction with Dr. Burton, of the “*Taste-scheme*,” so called, yet walking independently, and not precisely agreeing with his sharp-minded friend,—a great reader, keeping up remarkably with the progress of science, and renewing in his old age his knowledge of Latin,—a shrewd judge and an indefatigable opponent. Beside him stood Elijah Paine, with a physical frame “put together with sinews of brass,—his voice clear and audible at the distance of three quarters of a mile,”—remarkable for high-toned integrity,—clear-minded, honest-hearted and upright,—of whom it was said by a most competent judge,* “that the supposition of any thing like injustice or oppression where Elijah Paine was present, was a palpable absurdity, not to be believed for a moment,”—appearing sometimes to be severe when he really meant to be only just and true,—a little obstinate, perhaps, especially if any good or right thing was opposed, and perfectly inflexible if it was opposed by unfair and improper means.†

Side by side was seen Charles Marsh, a lawyer more thoroughly read than either—on whose “solid, immovable, quieting strength” one might lean and rest,—if erring, erring with a right purpose,—simple and with-

* The late Mr. WEST, of Charlestown.

† For the characters of Judge NILES and Judge PAINE, and in a degree for that of Mr. MARSH, the writer is much indebted to the recollection of Rev. JOSEPH TRACY, of Boston, and Rev. Dr. WHEELER, of Burlington.

out pretension, like his relative, Mr. Mason, but when once engaged in any cause, unflagging and unyielding, bringing to bear upon every subject the strength of a penetrating and tenacious understanding, and resting with perfect confidence and fearlessness upon his own convictions of both right and duty.

Of the same general character, of transparent purpose, of remarkable equanimity, undisturbed by difficulties, and serene in uprightness, was Timothy Farrar, whose eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated, though he was drawing toward the farthest verge of the ordinary limit of human life, and who finally, in 1847, was gathered to his grave in peace, at the extreme age of one hundred years. In contrast, yet in harmony, was seen Thomas W. Thompson — like Judge Paine, a graduate and a tutor of Harvard, — of courtly ways, refined and cultivated in manners, with deep religious convictions, and a supporter of every thing good in circumstances where a loose holding to principle would have subjected him to less inconvenience.

Contemporary with these were Rev. Drs. Payson and McFarland, whose praise was in all the churches, and whose names added dignity and strength to whatever society or institution they were connected with. And if we follow down the list, how soon do we come upon the ever-honored name of Ezekiel Webster, then in the fullness of uncommon manly beauty and undisputed intellectual preëminence.

“His own fair countenance, his kingly forehead,
 * * * * * *
 The sense, and spirit, and the light divine,
 At the same moment in his steadfast eye,
 Were virtue’s native crest, the immortal soul’s
 Unconscious meek self-heraldry.”

There was yet another, taken from us but as yesterday, whose name need not be uttered here beside that ever hospitable abode within the glance of our eye, alive still with his presence, its very walls exhaling the breath of courtesy and magnanimity, sagacity and wisdom.* But I pause. Am I not introducing you to a congregation of senators? Would that from the marble or the canvas every one of them looked down upon us in our halls or libraries, so that our vanity might be rebuked by their presence, and we insensibly lifted to higher regions of thought, of purpose, of life.

I do not propose to apply any very rigid text to the history of the College, yet it may be expected that we should at least refer to some of the characteristics which have marked her course. I think it may be said that she has endeavored to establish herself upon *principles*, both in literature and in morals. Some have thought her not supple and flexible enough. Her faults have not been on the side of vacillation and indecision.

She has generally been distinguished, farther, by a wise conservatism. She has not been hasty to accept new theories in education; she has not been impatient of the old methods, where they have been tested and their fruit demonstrated to be good. With all the cry and din that has sometimes been raised in favor of the immediately practical, she has never forgotten the need of studies speculative and recondite. She has given their proper place to facts, but has given a higher place to ideas. That which has been proved, that which is true, that which is good, she has clung

* To none but to those unfamiliar with Hanover is it necessary to mention the name of Mills Olcott.

to, bidding her time, if some of her friends even have been doubtful.

Her course has at the same time been marked by a tempered and sure progress — a progress sure, because not spasmodic, but natural and healthful; because moderate, ascertained, and at every step, secured. She has had few impulses, either from a large accession of students, or from remarkable accumulation of funds, but has increased by gradual increments, to be tested at somewhat distant intervals. Her measures, even if not always approved, have not averted the affections of her friends; neither has she in general lagged behind their sympathies. She has endeavored so to adjust the harness, as to enable her to bend forward with all the weight of her accumulated strength, as well as to hold back when the vehicle would, by natural impulse, rush down the declivity with too much violence.

And that every energy may be rightly controlled, she has endeavored to pervade her discipline and her studies by religious ideas; ideas the most profound, most subtle, most lofty, and of widest scope. She would teach her students to contemplate affairs from a position high enough to embrace the amplest horizon, that in public life they may be statesmen of generous sympathies, of vigorous effort, of unsullied integrity; and that in every profession they may rise to the full dignity of their calling — in medicine, reverently searching into the mysteries of the wonderful microcosm, — in law, comprehending its grounds and principles, administering it with incorruptible fidelity, and obeying it as the voice of God, — and in theology, at once humble and daring, yielding to faith

the things that belong to faith, yet soaring immeasurably beyond the farthest scope of philosophy under the guidance of revelation.

What then are some of the difficulties of realizing the aims of the College? One is found in the very extent of the ground to be gone over, compared with the time allowed for the work. Within the last thirty, and much more, the last fifty years, many new sciences have been created, and the boundaries of all have been greatly enlarged. Some modern languages, which then were hardly known amongst us, now form an essential part of the furniture of an educated man; without which he cannot enter upon the thorough and scientific study of any liberal profession; without which he can master neither history, nor criticism, nor art. The pursuit of philology, under the severe methods of later scholars, has given to the ancient languages a new life, and a modern interest. We cannot study our own language without knowing them. Old text-books are abandoned. Methods more thorough and more generous are rendered necessary. And yet the time of the curriculum has not increased, and therefore, relatively, is diminished. The danger then is, notwithstanding improved means, of superficial and not thorough learning, of minds inflated with conceit and not full with knowledge, nor humble under a conviction of ignorance. There is not a department which is not clamorous for more time for justice to itself, for profit to its pupils.

The only remedies are to make the standard of admission higher, or that some specific studies of the present college course should be relegated to the academies or special schools, or reserved for the few

whose taste for them is strong, or trusted to that general and cultivated love of learning which urges its possessor into every attractive field; thus leaving ampler space to those studies reckoned fundamental, and more strictly disciplinary; — or still again, to add a year or two to the college course, so as to afford room for a more extensive pursuit of some studies, or the introduction of others of great importance. Whether changes like these be practicable, it is not my purpose to inquire. Either of the propositions would be determined in the affirmative, “were it not,” as our venerable professor used sometimes to say, in deciding perplexing questions, “were it not for countervailing objections in the negative.”

But against the last there lies a difficulty which also bears with much force against our present arrangement, viz., the general impatience and haste which urges the student, no less than society in general, toward the future. We forget the necessary chronology of intellectual progress. The expansion of the country, and the immense demand for educated, or partially educated labor, tempts the student to the course which is the shortest and swiftest. Long before he graduates he is enticed by lucrative and honorable offers, and is it strange that he should not always judge wisely? He begins his profession a year or two before he is graduated, that he may so much the sooner leap over the intervening space between himself and active life.

A still more important and essential difficulty in realizing the full idea of the College is found in the lack of means. No considerable literary or scientific community can be created without books, and instru-

ments, and cabinets ; and no constant, strong and pervading literary or scientific interest can be excited without such a community.

It might be unwise, it certainly would be ungrateful, to indicate the destitution under which we have labored : yet who that remembers the College Library as it existed a few years since, can be insensible to the plentiful lack of all the apparatus needed for modern scholarship ? We cannot be too grateful to those benefactors among the living, as well as of the dead, whose generosity has supplied the most glaring deficiencies, and given a direction to the gifts of the liberal, which we hope may be abundantly followed. The College has never received from a single source the ample donations with which some favored institutions have been endowed. Yet, not to mention those yet with us, let us remember with honor the names of Dartmouth, of Thornton, of Wentworth, of Phillips, of Evans, of Hall, of Reed, of Appleton, of Shattuck, of Chandler — familiar, many of them, in the annals of charity and public spirit. Nor let us forget the many on whose liberality the College has ever relied, and not in vain. It is difficult to compare the commercial value of the broad streams bearing fleets of traffickers upon their bosom, with the silver rills which fertilize a thousand hill-sides and meadows.

How far the College has attained all the objects for which it was founded ; how far it has been a force in the State ; how wisely it has mingled instruction with discipline ; how promptly her course of study has followed the ever-flying boundaries of knowledge ; how thorough, severe and generous has been her train-

ing ; with what wisdom and skill she has guided her children ; whether her sons have done honor to themselves and to her, we shall leave others to determine. Yet if in this northern region there is spread a wider refinement, a gentler spirit, a deeper love and honor of literature, of art, of liberty, of law ; if there be diffused a more adequate idea of the nobler purposes of life ; if in other States throughout the Confederacy, if in other lands towards the rising and the setting sun, there be found the eloquent orator ; the faithful minister ; the missionary, learned, zealous and self-denying ; the physician, cunning to discern the secrets of life ; the statesman, looking through the darkness of coming years, conquering difficulties afar off, devising safe remedies for most threatening evils ; if, gratefully receiving among her officers the sons of other colleges, older and younger than herself, she has paid the debt to learning by contributing of her alumni to meet the similar wants of ancient universities at home, and new schools abroad ; if the torches kindled at yonder altars have been borne “even and high” towards all regions, signals everywhere of encouragement and joy ; — if names of the illustrious, memorable from achievements in letters, in arts, in life, already chronicled in history, part and parcel henceforth forever of the fame of the land,—if such names are found on her rolls, early or late,—if these evidences are patent to the world, may we not believe that its founders and guardians, who nourished it by their prayers and staked so much upon its defence, would still (were such things permitted,) look down upon it with satisfaction, and may we not be pardoned if we cling to it with love and devotion ? Mistakes there

may have been, too little encouragement to the diligent, too little stimulus to the sluggish, now too much haste and then too little, yet in soundness of principle and sureness of result, could we reasonably have expected more ?

I have referred to differences in studies at different periods. Yet there is an advancement not covered by a knowledge of books,—not in attainment merely, but in the spirit of a scholar,—the inward life, the indescribable fervor, the inimitable beauty, the holy zeal, the expanse of mind, the magnanimity of soul ;—of those elements of a perfect education we cannot so well speak, nor compare the successive generations of students. Yet if the past is a fair prophet of the future,—if the next half century shall produce another Appleton, another Marsh, another Woodbury, another Wilde, another Webster, may we not be satisfied ?

These, Gentlemen of the Alumni, are some of the considerations, lying but too evidently on the surface, ordered with too little care, which have suggested themselves as not entirely unfit to the occasion, while we stand with a sober and tempered spirit to gather up the lessons of the past, to gird ourselves anew for the future. Through the favor of heaven, the College enjoys at least a fair degree of prosperity. You find her not in the heat and uncertainties of conflict, but in the beauty and affluence of peace ; not folding her robes about her to fall, but resting with serene confidence on the affection and generosity of her sons ; not, indeed, “winning her easy way” from one scene of enjoyment to another, yet her path beset by no

unusual and insuperable obstacles. What she shall be must depend largely upon those whose early culture she has directed, and in whose fame and prosperity she may claim some little share.

May she yet have resources sufficient for every reasonable want ; instruments wrought with cunning art for the most subtle or far-reaching operation of science ; libraries ample for the student of widest research, ever enlarging with wise foresight, sheltered in apartments whose very air shall inspire the philosopher, the historian, the poet, and so protected that the first fire which our audacity is tempting shall not lay in ashes all our wealth. May she have some building, at least one, be it Chapel, or Hall, or Library, or all combined, of noble architecture, that we may look on with love and pride, whose image may rise first in the memory when her name is pronounced by her distant sons, and which may bind still closer together the increasing generation of her children, by offering a common subject of thought, a common bond of association. May every liberal art find increasing protection under the shadow of her wings. Above all, may she abound in that wisdom which ennobleth institutions no less than individual men, and more perfectly fulfil her first design of increasing sound learning, and diffusing pure religion. In the language of Thomas Fuller, " May her lamp never lack light for the oil, or oil for the light thereof. May the foot of sacrilege, if once offering to enter the gates thereof, stumble and rise no more. The Lord bless the labors of all students therein, that they may tend and end at his glory, their own salvation, the profit and honor of the church and commonwealth." With such a spirit, re-

spectful of the counsels of age and ardent with the resolution of youth; sustained by filial hands that will never forget nor forsake, and planting her footsteps upon eternal truth, will she go on to fulfil her mission.

Dum juga montis aper, fluvios dum piscis amabit,
Dumque thymo pascentur apes, dum rore cicadæ;
Semper honor, nomenque tuum, landesque manebunt.

SUPPLEMENTARY.

IN accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the Association of the Alumni of Dartmouth College met in the Chapel, on Wednesday, the 25th of July, 1855, and elected the officers of the Association for the current year, as follows :

JOEL PARKER, LL. D., *President.*

DANIEL BLAISDELL, ESQ.,	}	<i>Vice-Presidents.</i>
REV. SILAS AIKEN, D. D.,		
RUFUS CHOATE, LL. D.,		
REUBEN D. MUSSEY, LL. D.,		

PROF. E. D. SANBORN, *Secretary.*

PROF. JOHN S. WOODMAN, *Treasurer.*

PROF. IRA YOUNG,	}	<i>Curators.</i>
IRA PERLEY, LL. D.,		
ALBERT SMITH, M. D.,		
DANIEL CLARK, ESQ.,		
JOHN P. HEALEY, ESQ.,		
PROF. EDWARD A. LAWRENCE,		
REV. NEWTON E. MARBLE,		

PETER T. WASHBURN, JR., ESQ., *Chief Marshal.*

The *Secretary* proceeded to read the names of those of the Alumni who had deceased within the past year, and brief remarks upon their lives and characters were made by classmates and friends, until the hour appointed for the Oration.

After the Oration a Poem was delivered by *Park Benjamin*, Esq., of New-York, and an Oration by *Wendell Phillips*, Esq., of Boston, before the Literary Societies of the College.

The Association then proceeded to the further celebration of its Anniversary. No arrangements were made in contemplation of a publication, but it has been supposed that the subsequent transactions may prove, to those interested in the welfare of the College, an ac-

ceptable Appendix to the Oration ; and an attempt has been made to collect the *disjecta membra* with such success as warrants the belief that those who were present will recognize the general truthfulness, if not the precise accuracy, of the following Report of what transpired,

SUPER CŒNAM.

The President of the Association :

Gentlemen,—The duty which falls upon my shoulders upon the present occasion seems just now to be of rather an onerous character. It is quite an easy matter, as you have perceived to-day, to make an excellent oration, or to deliver a racy poem ; but to preside at the supplement to a dinner-table, after such an intellectual treat, is another affair altogether. I feel somewhat like the good deacon who maintained that the minister's salary of some two hundred and fifty dollars was quite enough, because it was so easy to preach ; and who thereupon was invited by the clergyman to occupy the pulpit. You may recollect that when he came to the sermonizing, after three or four ineffectual attempts to get hold of the thread of a discourse, he leaned over the desk in despair, and said to the audience : "My friends, if any of you think preaching is such a very easy matter, I wish you would just come up here and try it for yourselves."

If any one of you, my friends, thinks that presiding over the after dinner part of the performances at this Celebration is such an easy affair, I shall be pleased to have him come up here and try his hand at it.—As no one speaks, I suppose I must proceed to supply the pulpit as well as I may.

You are aware that this is the first public celebration of the Alumni of Dartmouth College. Something more than a quarter of a century since I had some agency in the formation of an association, which, after vainly endeavoring for three or four years to have a celebration in connection with a Commencement, expired without accomplishing the object for which it was instituted.

It has not been I think from any want of fraternal feeling on the part of the Graduates of this College, nor from any lack of interest in their Alma Mater, that the Institution has been somewhat behind others of a like character in the efficient organization of an association like the present ; but one prominent cause has been the wide dispersion of the Alumni of this College, which in all classes follows immediately upon graduation, and to the lack of facilities until recently for a reünion in the classic halls of their earlier days. There is prob-

ably no collegiate institution which has done more than Dartmouth to send the schoolmaster abroad. It is substantially, if not literally, the fact, that wherever there has been a patch of the country of sufficient ability to support a district school, there, or in the vicinity of that place, has been found a graduate of Dartmouth. Some of them have attained to the dignity of schoolmasters in other similar institutions. Commerce, manufactures, and agriculture throughout the Union have had the benefit of their labor. Some have acquired renown in the halls of legislation. As members of the learned professions, they have been scattered broad cast over the land. Some fill professional chairs in Medical Colleges. Others are dispensing justice from the bench. And of those who, with a self-sacrificing spirit, have taken their lives in their hands in order to carry the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth, Dartmouth has contributed her full share. It is no vain boasting in behalf of our Alma Mater, to say that wherever her sons have gone, the boundaries of science have been enlarged, truth and justice have been enforced, and the world has been made better because they have lived in it.

The difficulties which have interposed themselves in the way of a family gathering under the maternal roof-tree, have been partially overcome. The railways which intersect the country, whatever mischiefs they may have occasioned, have among their merits that of furnishing facilities for such an assemblage; and through their aid we have come up here at this time, under a constitution which declares that the object of the Association "shall be to unite in such meetings, exercises, and other measures as shall be appropriate to the Alumni of a literary institution, and as shall tend to strengthen the bonds which bind us to each other and to our common Alma Mater."

The question how the first part of this constitutional obligation is to be performed, has been readily answered. We have adopted the approved mode. We have had our joyous greetings and pleasant reminiscences. We have listened to a Discourse of marked ability and eloquence, pronounced at our request and for our edification; which is undoubtedly a proper measure for the Alumni of a literary institution. And we have just united in an exercise which is universally admitted to be one of the true modes of promoting good-fellowship. You all know the old proverb respecting the most direct way to a man's heart. A good dinner makes us wondrous kind. Judging from what I have observed around me, you are all just at this time most affectionately disposed towards each other. So far, very well.

But the mode in which the other part of our constitutional obligation is to be complied with ; the means which shall be taken, now and here, to strengthen the bonds which bind us to our common Alma Mater, do not appear quite so clearly. The questions, what does our good Mother desire of us? what can we do for her? and how increase our affection for her? are not as readily answered. In order to solve the first of these questions, we should consult her. How shall we get from the honored Lady some expression of her wishes? I have in my eye a gentleman who is her Chief Steward, and who doubtless could give us the information, if a way could be devised of extracting it from him. But how is this to be done? If we were assembled under old fashioned usages, with wine upon the board, I should have no difficulty. It would only be to call upon you to fill your glasses, and with a bumper to Alma Mater, we should have him on his feet forthwith. He would, by all the laws in such cases heretofore made and provided, be bound to respond to it. But our wise Mother furnishes no such means of acquiring information. She only points to "the old oaken bucket that hangs in the well."

In this "pursuit of knowledge under difficulties," it occurs to me that we are at this time very like children, and may act in that character. The little folks march and counter-march, hold meetings, have their parties, with toast and tea, and all kinds of imitations of their seniors, but when appealed to respecting the reality of the thing, they admit that it is only "make believe." Suppose we proceed upon that basis, try the virtue of "make believe," and see what will come of it.

Please fill your glasses with the pure element. Let us have a bumper to,—*Our Alma-Mater, and her worthy President.*

I beg leave, Gentlemen, to introduce the Reverend Dr. LORD.

President Lord : Mr. President,—You call upon me to represent the wishes of Dartmouth, at this festive gathering of her sons. Sir, she thinks of nothing, just now, but to please them. She has but one wish to-day ;—that they may have a merry meeting, and go in together, one and all, for a good time.

Sir, I have but a doubtful right to say a word on this occasion, beyond what is merely *ex officio* ; for I am not a son of the venerable Mother whose children have come up to do her honor. But I may claim the privilege of adoption, and of a child kept at home, in expressing to this goodly company the feelings of a brother's heart. In truth, I know no difference between your mother and my own, or her children and my own brethren; and I love them, not as in duty bound, but as I cannot help, with all the affection of a natural kins-

man. It is spontaneous, and I give it free utterance in an honest and hearty welcome.

I may also claim a yet higher right to speak, for many greet me here, the more generously because, on my part, the relationship has been so poorly earned, as children. I have a double joy in these festivities, and in giving a double welcome to this glowing brotherhood. I welcome all and several to this old homestead, to these old halls and haunts, and I go in with them for a warm meeting, and a good time. Sir, we shall have it. I see it in your eye. I saw it when, with your usual forecast and benevolence, you went out, just now, to shore all up safe below.

But you do not mean that this good time shall pass away and be forgotten. You mean to live hereafter. You are looking out for better times to come. You ask me to show cause why Dartmouth should continue to have the favor of her sons? My answer is a short one,—because Dartmouth is in her sons. There is no Dartmouth without her sons. They have made her what she is, and they constitute good and sufficient reasons why she should be sustained, and become a yet more prolific and propitious mother. You could not expect me to discuss these reasons. Why, Sir, there are three thousand of them—*numerus integer*—and of that entire number two thousand *supersunt adhuc*. A tithe of that surviving number represent here, this day, the strong heads and warm hearts of the whole living fraternity. Could I discuss even them? It would be out of taste. They would not thank me. They will speak for themselves.

But I will just take it upon me to say what Dartmouth is: that is, what her sons have made her, and what I trust she will be as long as she has sons to be called by her name. What have they made her?

Sir, God makes all things. But the ideas, the principles, that he, in his good providence, causes to pervade a learned institution, and by which it has a character, belong to the men whom it educates. It takes its impress from them. And, in my judgment, the sons of Dartmouth have made her, and she accordingly stands out this day:

1. A College which knows no party in the State; but is of and for the State, and for the whole of it:

2. A College which knows no denomination of the Church; but is of and for the whole of it:

3. A College which knows no order in ethics, no father in theology, no hierophant in philosophy, and acknowledges but one Master, who is in heaven:

4. A College which stands between Church and State as a mediator, not to unite them, not to constitute an ambitious and destructive Church-and-State-power; but to compose and harmonize these respective bodies in their distinct and independent but coördinate spheres, for the ends of righteousness and peace, and, by consequence, for the common good.

Mr. President, let Dartmouth and her sons be true to these principles, and she will have, if not the present favor of the State, or

Church, yet, what is of more account, and what will make her, in the long run, more subservient to the common good, the favor of Him who ruleth over all.

The President :—It is now quite a number of years,—(as my wife is not present to object, perhaps I may as well be frank, and say that it is more than forty years) since my name was enrolled among—of course among—the diligent students of the College. At that time the father of the Orator of the Association was one of the Tutors. As an instructor at that time, as an occupant of the sacred desk afterwards, and subsequently as the presiding officer of the College, he was unsurpassed. But it is not for me, upon this occasion, to pronounce his eulogy. It was my good fortune to be for one term under his instruction; and if my lessons in the recitation room did not tell as well as those of some others, (to use the language which at a former meeting to-day has, with much less reason, been applied to a most distinguished son of Dartmouth,) I will not hold him responsible. In fact, I must admit that I was somewhat stupid at that time, for it certainly did not then occur to me that nearly half a century afterwards I should come up here to listen to instruction from a son of my most respected Tutor. And yet there is perhaps some excuse for me; for whatever you may now think, after the very interesting discourse to which you have listened to-day, I can assure you, Gentlemen, that the Orator was not thought much of fifty years since. And I don't propose to say much of him now, because, as you are aware, he is so well able to speak for himself. I merely give you, *The Orator of the Day*.

Prof. Brown, after thanking the President and Alumni for their generous reception of an address too hastily prepared, excused himself in a few words from intruding farther upon the attention of the Association, and proposed as a sentiment—

*Our Alma-Mater: Salve, magna parens frugum, * * **
Magna virûm.

The President :—You are aware, Gentlemen, that there is in almost every community a venerable personage who is regarded as a kind of oracle in all matters relating to the weather and the crops, and respecting every singular and astonishing event. He is regularly appealed to upon every extraordinary occasion, but it is always expected of him that his memory shall not be able to recall any thing so marvellous in that line as the incident which has just happened. I regret that it is not in my power to make you acquainted with that renowned

personage, "the oldest inhabitant;" but I can do much better than that; I can introduce to your notice one with whom you are already well acquainted, and one who is and has always been an oracle in relation to matters of much more importance than these ordinary marvels; one who has probably done more for the collegiate education of the elder half of us than any other man now living. I see you are at no loss to perceive where the index points, and you will heartily respond to,—*Long life and health to our venerable friend and instructor, Rev. Dr. Shurtleff.*

Dr. Shurtleff: Mr. President,—The unexpectedness of your call conspires with this delightful occasion to awaken emotions which I have no words to express. I discover so many cheerful faces here, which were once familiar in the halls of recitation, that I almost feel the need of a check, lest I should inadvertently call for an abstract of the last lesson.

I am doubtless acquainted with more of the Alumni of Dartmouth than any other man living, and to me they are all peculiar people; and I hesitate not to express the gratifying opinion, that no College in our land has produced a greater proportion, to say the least, of eminent and useful men than my own venerable Alma Mater. And while riding at anchor in the wane of life, during the last seventeen years, I have seemed repeatedly to live over again the thirty-eight years I spent in her service. In imagination I have seen her beloved sons in classes before me, and have followed them in their various ways from State to State, from continent to continent, and from kingdom to kingdom—accounting myself successful in all their prosperity, and happy in their happiness.

But, out of regard to your time and my own weakness, I will add only an expression of my fervent desire and prayer, that we and all the surviving Alumni of this cherished Institution may, through divine grace, be prepared to meet in a brighter world, where friends will part no more.

The President:—It will be recollected that the reading of the list of deceased members was suspended this morning, by a call for the formation of the procession. Although this is not the most appropriate time for such reminiscences, it seems expedient that this duty should not be left unfinished. Classmates and friends of the deceased will please favor us with memorials.

The Secretary proceeded with the roll.

The President:—I understand that letters have been written within a few days to divers gentlemen, especially requesting them to give us the benefit of their presence at these festivities, and that answers have been received from several who are unable to be here. We will remember—" *Our absent Friends.*"

Mr. Duncan, who has the letters in his possession, will please answer in their behalf.

It is suggested to me that just at this time Mr. Duncan himself is among "our absent friends." I am not aware of any process by which I can enforce his attendance.

Speaking of process reminds me,—*Salmon P. Chase!* Hearken to an indictment found against you by the grand inquest for the body of this Association. The jurors for the Association of the Alumni of Dartmouth College on their honor present, that you, Salmon P. Chase, were, on the —— day of ——, 1854, duly elected and commissioned to deliver an oration before the Association upon the present Anniversary—and the jurors aforesaid do further present, that you have failed and neglected so to do; in evil example to others in like case to offend, contrary to the form of the statutes in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the Association. What say you, Are you guilty of the offence with which you here stand charged, or not guilty?

Hon. S. P. Chase: Mr. President,—I do not know exactly by what authority this indictment is preferred against me; and perhaps I ought to plead to the jurisdiction of the Court in which I am arraigned. But I will not do that. I might stand mute, and refuse to plead at all; but then I too well know to what *peine fort et dur* I should expose myself, to be willing to risk its infliction.

As I have a complete defence upon the merits, however, I will neither except to the jurisdiction, nor, by silence, incur the charge of contumacy.

It was with no little regret that I surrendered the expectation of addressing this ancient and honorable Society to-day. I fully intended to do so. I had appropriated to the duty of preparation a time altogether sufficient. I had indeed entered upon the performance of that duty, but just then I was summoned to the discharge of a professional obligation which could not be postponed, and which occupied the whole time set apart for the preparation of an address for this occasion. It seemed to me, therefore, that I was only doing what became a loyal son of Dartmouth, and a faithful member of our fraternity, to announce at once to the proper authorities that it would be impossible for me to fulfil my engagement, in order that some other gentleman might be called upon in time for the performance of the duty which I could not discharge.

But, sir, I do not rest content with this vindication of myself. I not only claim a verdict of acquittal, but a vote of thanks. My compelled failure to address you really assumes the character of positive merit. It has been the means of procuring for us all the pleasure of listening to the extremely interesting and eloquent address, which we

have heard from my able and accomplished friend, who sits near me (Professor BROWN). If I had been, in fact, a delinquent, you could easily pardon a delinquency which has been the occasion of such a gratification.

And now perhaps I ought to take my seat, but as the impulse is upon me I will say a few words, suggested by what has fallen from you about the wide dispersion of the sons of Dartmouth.

As you spoke I could not help thinking of the various circumstances under which I have met her children in the course of my own life.

It was under the charge of my own elder brother, a son of Dartmouth, that I, a mere boy, first sought the distant West — now no longer the West, but the centre of the Republic. There, with the venerable Bishop of Ohio, another son of Dartmouth, I found my first western home.

There, too, I remember to have met another of the children of our Alma Mater. He was a young man, of fine intellect and rich attainments, who had for a brief period resided in the commercial metropolis of Ohio, with a view to the practice of an honorable profession, in which he afterwards rose to deserved renown. He had become discontented or discouraged, I don't know which, and was on his return to New-England. Never before in his life, I believe — never since, certainly, was he known to retreat. But then he was certainly upon the back track. What the West lost, however, New-England gained. I need not give you his history. Thou, Mr. President, art the man.

Years afterward, when, myself a youthful graduate, I sought, by teaching, the means of a professional education, another son of Dartmouth, occupying a post in the Senate of the United States, cheered me by sympathy and aided me by counsel.

A little later, when returning to the West, I was obliged to undergo a brief probation in a lawyer's office, before I could enter upon the practice of the law. I found a kind welcome to office and library, from a gentleman whose useful and honorable life reflects distinction upon this venerable Institution whose alumnus he is. I am glad to see him among us to-day. He is not quite royal, for he may do wrong. But in name and nature he is always *Wright*.

While engaged in the practice of my profession, I could not be indifferent to the fortunes of those who had with me received the benediction of our Alma Mater, when from her peaceful shades we went forth into the world. The universal and inevitable law of dispersion was upon us. Almost every where in the Union were members of our class. One was a lawyer in New-Orleans; one a physician in Massachusetts; another was a minister of the gospel on the Ohio. Some had gone beyond the limits of the Union. One was Secretary of the State of Texas at the period of annexation; another, in the far distant islands of the Pacific, was engaged in the great work of making known to the heathen the unsearchable riches of Christ.

At a still later period it was my fortune to be chosen to represent

the Empire State of the West in the Senate of the Union. There, again, I met the sons of Dartmouth. The regretted death of one of them (Mr. Norris) has been announced to-day. Of the other how shall I speak? How shall I describe the lofty grandeur of his intellect, the simple dignity of his manners, the kindness of his spirit? I will not attempt to do at all, what I must needs do so inadequately and unworthily. Dartmouth—New-Hampshire—the Union, has had but one WEBSTER, and can have no other.

Thus, Mr. President, every where are our brethren found. They do their part in the world, and truly the world is the better for their doing it. Every heart here will, I am sure, echo the aspiration of my own, God bless them, wherever they may be!

The President :—Hearken to the verdict of the jury, as it is duly recorded. The jury find the said Salmon P. Chase is guilty in manner and form, but in consideration of the extenuating circumstances to which he has referred, recommend him to mercy. And thereupon, having the advice of counsel, a full and free pardon is extended to him.

The remarks of the gentleman who has just received his pardon suggests a call upon—*The Class of 1811. The biggest class, of its size,—in its own opinion,—which had then graduated.* It has still some claim to regard, inasmuch as it numbers among its members one “always Wright.”* Judge Wright, of Ohio, Gentlemen.

Judge Wright :—It seems hardly justice to the absent and the departed, to call on *me, now*, to represent the class of 1811—not only unused to this service, but *now*, travel-soiled, and very tired. For let me say, Sir, the class of 1811 is not to be trifled with—not at all to be spoken of slightly. It has made its mark in the annals of Dartmouth; aye, sir, and in other places of the earth.

Were there time it would be grateful to me, and perhaps useful to us all, to recall some of its names, and the course of their lives; to go back almost half a century to our joyous days here, and from that stand look forward into the future,—now become the past.

There was *Daniel Poor*, the Christian Missionary, so amiable and so earnest; unsurpassed in skill as a teacher of the heathen; unlimited in devotion to his Saviour; his bones reposing now among the spicy groves of Ceylon.

Nathaniel H. Carter, distinguished *here* for his exquisite classical taste, and afterwards, far and wide, as an elegant leader in the periodical literature of the time; especially by his graphic sketches of for-

* The Class of 1811 numbered *seventy-five*. Owing to various untoward circumstances, but *fifty-three* received their degrees in course. One graduated at Middlebury the same year. Two received their degrees with the Class of 1812. The honorary degree of A. M. was conferred upon another in 1822.

eign travel. "He touched nothing which he did not adorn." He has long since gone to his rest, in a foreign land.

There was *Lemuel H. Arnold*, who held, with good success, the helm of Government in that sister State, which once seemed so much to need a hand of extra firmness and power.

William Cogswell, also, has gone; so useful and so faithful as a Christian Teacher, and who did so much to strengthen the ties of men to their kindred.

Ether Shepley, distinguished as a statesman in the Senate of the Union, and still more as a jurist at the head of the Judiciary of Maine; a lawyer who blends the highest legal talent and learning, with the conscientiousness of a devoted Christian, still remains among us.

There was *Amos Kendall*, since Post-Master General; an office the most complex and harassing of all the departments of public service. To the deep disgrace of our country be it said, all our public men, worthy and unworthy, without distinction, are grossly abused, vilified, vituperated; and he shared the common lot. But now, when the frenzy of the moment has passed away, who doubts that Amos Kendall filled that office with distinguished ability and integrity.

Then there was another, not to be named in this presence, and yet not by any means to be omitted; a stripling in the class, not in mind but in body — for he was very young — long Chief Justice of this our State, where not only his own people, but the whole legal profession throughout the land, will ever remember him with deference and gratitude; now a distinguished Professor in the celebrated Law School at Cambridge; a man who can give honor to any station, and receive honor from none.

But I must stop — I might speak of others; of the whole class. But I am trespassing. I do no justice even to these. May I ask, Sir, to hear from yourself in relation to this class of 1811?

The President:—I always do every thing which I may by deputy. Brother Andrews is commissioned to respond to this call.

A. Andrews, Esq.: Mr. President,—Little did I think when I entered this hall that so humble an individual as myself would be called upon as your deputy to speak for the class of 1811. I feel myself unable to do justice to the merits of a class which contained so many members who have distinguished themselves in the various learned professions and other employments of life. They need no praise from me, and I shall not attempt to bestow it. But were I competent to the task I might, for a moment, recall to your mind other individuals of our class, who have passed away from earth, whose names are dear to our hearts.

I would name the elder *Goodwin*, who, having just opened an office in South Berwick, Me., his native town, for the practice of law,

was suddenly called from his earthly toils and from friends who must have entertained high hopes of his usefulness and success. He was a young man of promising talents, winning address, and unblemished character.

The next name I would bring to your notice is that of *Woodbury*. He had read law, and commenced practice in Portsmouth, N. H. But afterwards he studied divinity, and settled in the gospel ministry in North Yarmouth, Me., in 1817. He died at Groton, Mass., in 1819. Mr. Woodbury was a gentleman of high moral worth, a good scholar, and an amiable man.

Other names crowd upon my memory, but I forbear. A word respecting some of those who have already been mentioned.

Carter was decidedly, in my humble opinion, the best classical scholar in the class. He devoted most of his life to literary pursuits, and his writings, both in poetry and prose, were highly creditable to himself and an honor to the class. He was courteous in his manners, upright in his morals, and social in his feelings.

Of *Poor* I have already spoken to-day, when his decease was announced at the meeting in the Chapel. In early college life he came to the determination to devote his whole life as a missionary in India. He has accomplished the task he so ardently desired. Mr. Poor was a persevering scholar, a philanthropist, and a Christian, and in his manners kind and obliging to all.

Cogswell knew more of the Class than any other man. He was an industrious man, performing *well* whatever he attempted, in less time than ordinary men. He was the author of several works:—I mention but one—a little pamphlet which we esteem very highly, because it contains a Sketch of the Life of each member of our Class.

And now, Mr. President, as I am about to resign my delegated trust to your hands, allow me to advise you, the next time you attempt to speak by deputy to so respectable an audience as the one over which you now preside, to be more discreet in your choice.

The President:—You perceive, gentlemen, that I was not mistaken respecting the opinion which the class of 1811 entertained of itself. I give you next—*Benjamin's Mess.* *Unlike his namesake of ancient times, the Poet has given, instead of receiving, a double portion of good cheer. We have had from him to-day Poetry and Truth.*

I understand that the Rev. Dr. Henry, of New-York, is responsible for Mr. Benjamin, who it appears is not present.

Rev. Dr. Henry: Mr. President,—You have taken me by surprise. I did not expect to be called up at all, still less to be called on to answer for our missing Poet. For I am not a poet, neither am I our poet's keeper. I declare to you I have not put him out of the way, as Cain did Abel; and I resent the imputation your call on me implies. I have not the least doubt but that he is safe and well somewhere.

Though as to the rest, I am unable to conceive what claim you can have on him, or on me, if I were answerable for him; since you yourself admit that he has given us his whole "Benjamin's mess," and gone dinnerless away himself. Be this as it may, I shall decline answering for him.

[*The President* :—"You will please, then, to speak on your own behalf."]

Well, Sir, since I am unrighteously called up, though unprepared with any thing to say, and utterly incapable of continuing the strain of sparkling wit and humor, which you—witty yourself, like Falstaff, and the cause of wit in others—have elicited for the mirth and joyousness of this festive hour; yet I will try to speak an earnest word or two out of the deep feeling which this occasion has awakened.

I have not been here since, fifteen years ago, I had the honor to deliver the Phi Beta Kappa oration: and I have never seen so many of the sons of Dartmouth assembled together before. Sons of Dartmouth!—brethren all,—children of the same benignant Mother! Glorious old Mother of our minds! In eighty-four years she has brought forth nearly three thousand sons! That is the number, I believe, which the venerable President has just told us stands upon the catalogue as the "*numerus integer*," the whole number of the Alumni; of which I forget exactly how many he said (in academic catalogical phrase) "*qui supersunt adhuc*," and I will thank him to mention it again.

[*President Lord*, in reply :—"Nearly two thousand *qui supersunt adhuc*."]

Three thousand sons! of whom nearly two thousand are yet alive! Wonderful old Mother! And she is as fruitfully vigorous as ever; as capable of bringing forth children, and more so; and she means, I don't doubt, to go on bringing forth thousands more of children, every eighty-four years to come, to the end of time.

We have heard to-day, Sir, how the sons of Dartmouth are to be found every where in the world, doing honor to their Alma Mater and to themselves in the service of God, of their country, and of mankind. Our brother from Ohio, [Senator Chase] of whom his Alma Mater and his brethren may well be proud, and who has made his adopted State and all FREE States proud of him, has given us an amusing account, in his exquisite way, of his experiences in encountering the *ubiquitarian* sons of Dartmouth. I listened with pleasure and with pride; and I may be pardoned, on classic ground, for reciting the classic verse his account called to my mind—words which our Alma Mater has a better right to utter than *pius Æneas* had:

"Quæ regio in terris nostri non plena laboris?"

Wherever you go, by sea or by land,
Are the sons of Dartmouth, a glorious band.

Not exactly a literal rendering, perhaps, but I am sure you will think it a strictly true one.

Little, Sir, as I feel myself to have done to make my Alma Mater proud of me, I am proud to be reckoned among her sons. I am proud of my brethren. I am proud, and we all have reason to be proud, of our Mother. And she has, in my judgment, a special title to be held in honor by all lovers of sound culture throughout the land. Amidst all the fluctuations of public opinion, and the demands of the spirit of the age for practical studies, so called, she has faithfully adhered to the good old fashioned curriculum. She has understood that the special function of a college is *to train and discipline* the mind, rather than to impart pragmatically the greatest possible amount of mere knowledge. She has understood that it is just simply impossible to find any course of studies so admirably, so perfectly adapted to the true nurture, the harmonious development, and the thorough discipline of the human faculties, and so to the preparation of a youth for all the subsequent acquisitions and subsequent achievements of a man, in whatever sphere, as precisely the good old fashioned, thorough training in classical, mathematical, and logical studies. She has indeed admitted new studies; she has kept pace with the progress of science; but she has not diminished aught of the old, rigid, wholesome discipline. For this, as one devoted to the cause of good learning and public instruction in the University where the best years of my life have been spent, I hold our Alma Mater entitled to a tribute of homage which I am glad to have this opportunity to pay.

Before I sit down, Sir, there is one thing I would like to add. It is suggested by what our orator said of the College buildings here, and of the desirableness of something better, more suitable, more cultivating in architectual character. I heartily agree with what he so finely said. And, though it may not be quite proper for me to make the suggestion at this time, yet I cannot help observing that there is here a large and exceedingly valuable collection of books that ought to be better protected than they are in the edifice in which they are now sheltered; and a fire-proof library building—beautiful enough in form, proportion and expression to satisfy the fine taste of our accomplished orator—would be a fine testimonial of the filial love of the sons of Dartmouth for their benignant Mother. I trust you will pardon me for uttering the suggestion here.

Pardon me for having talked so long. When I complied with your kind request to speak on my own behalf, I only intended to try to express—what no words, however, can express—the boundless delight with which I find myself in the presence of so many of my brethren, Alumni of Dartmouth. I hope our next meeting will be a still more numerous assemblage. I wish we could see all the “*supersunt adhuc*,” the near two thousand live sons of Dartmouth, assembled together at once! You say, Sir, that we should have to find some other place than this crowded, extra-propped-up hall. Let us fill the College Green, then, and stretch a canvas covering over it all. It would be a glorious reünion! for there is no finer, purer, more spirit-

ual bond—and, outside the tender relations of the domestic circle, there is no stronger bond—than that which unites the lovers of good letters, and especially those who have received the nurture of their minds at a common source. Let us, Sir, ever cherish this bond ; and wherever in the wide world the sons of Dartmouth meet, let it be with the heart-glad hand-grasp of true-hearted brothers.

The President:—The Judiciary. We claim a present primary interest in that of New-Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont ; and have had some good investments in that of the United States, and that of Massachusetts and other States too numerous to mention.

Chief Justice Redfield, of Vt., is bound to answer for the Judiciary.

Chief Justice Redfield : Mr. President,—I shall not attempt to make a speech at this late hour, upon so dry and uninteresting a subject as the Judiciary. Nobody, as a general thing, cares much about the Judiciary, any way. It is always, to most men, a dull topic of discourse ; and I have sometimes thought the least said or done upon that subject, the better. It is no doubt true, the world is governed too much, and as Chancellor Oxenstiern said to his son, “ with very little wisdom often.” Still, there are a good many who seem to fancy that all the ills of life are curable mainly by legislative and judicial reforms. These are, for the most part, men who have more confidence in themselves than in others, or than others have in them ; men who don’t like right well to trust Providence even.

It has thus happened that in this country, for the last ten years, almost all the States have been making more or less experiments upon their judicial systems, the tenure of judicial office, and the mode of appointment, till everything is brought into a state of painful uncertainty upon this subject. It has seemed to me that we were, in regard to the Judiciary, in this country, getting very much into the condition of the physician’s patient. He said the truth was, it had been *doctored* too much : it was, in reality, dying of the medicine, rather than the disease.

I do not expect these judicial reformers to be equally frank in their confessions, but the condition of the public mind has been quite too much agitated, for the last few years, to be likely to cure the evils which no doubt exist, to some extent, in our judicial systems ; and there seems more disposition among the politicians for reforms there, than among the people. Some of our States have quite recently declined to make the Judiciary elective, by a popular vote, even for a term of years—preferring that the judges should hold office by executive appointment, during good behavior ; but in some States there is manifested a disposition to have the Judiciary more essentially popularized, as they call it. If by that they mean, to have the Judiciary a power in the State whose direction shall be shaped by the outward pressure—a mere stake, for demagogues and politicians to gamble over—let them beware. When that thing is once done it will be too late to retrace their steps ! *Nulla vestigia retrorsum !*

And if any body, natural or artificial, has just cause to glory in the wisdom and independence of the Judiciary, it is Dartmouth College—our venerable, vigorous, and glorious Alma Mater. But for the Judiciary, and a Judiciary above the changing and hireling influences of the day or the age, even the name of Dartmouth College would have been among the things that were. *Illa fuit, et ingens gloria*, should already have concluded her brief history. She was not only the occasion, but the cause—the efficient cause—of establishing, through the independence of the National Judiciary, a most conservative and indispensable principle in the law and the life of corporations; and if in her turn she has contributed any thing to the credit of the judicial incumbents in the States named, we shall all rejoice. I could not, perhaps, be expected to say more upon this particular topic.

The President:—The Orator of the United Literary Societies. Although we have not the honor of his name on the roll of our Alumni, we recognize it with pleasure as that of one of our most munificent benefactors.

Mr. Phillips declined making a speech, but said he had heard of some tall specimens of the Graduates of Dartmouth College, and expressed a wish to hear from—

“The tallest Graduate—the tallest Member of Congress, and the tallest Man present.”

This led to a general call for Mr. Wentworth, of Illinois, who graduated in 1836.

Mr. W. responded:—I consider myself fortunate in being present at a meeting of so many of the Alumni, and hope to be equally fortunate on many similar occasions. My relatives are all in New-Hampshire. Whenever I visit them at this season, I always attend the Anniversary Exercises of my Alma Mater. But I am called out in consequence of my height. And what had Dartmouth College to do with that? From the days of Eleazer Wheelock to the present time, when did she add an inch to any one's stature? Perhaps gentlemen think all the Graduates stand upon their diplomas, and that my parchment was a little thicker than that of any other of the Graduates. Now, diplomas are very good things, but they will not do to stand upon in all cases. Yet I took one degree, and succeeded so well with it that I came back and got a second, and I succeeded a great deal better, and so all say who have tried the second degree.

The Faculty of Dartmouth College never claimed any credit for my height, and did their whole duty to make me think it was of no importance. It seems but yesterday that President LORD recited certain stanzas from Dr. Watts, which referred to me so plainly, that, had it been in Congress, and had Congress been an orderly body, I should have called him to order, for a personal allusion. I am not

certain that I quote them correctly, but if I do not, President Lord will correct me :

“ Were I so tall ’s to reach the Pole,
 “ Or grasp the ocean with my span,
 “ I must be measured by my soul :
 “ The mind ’s the standard of the man.”

Now, by this standard, the eloquent orator of this afternoon, Mr. PHILLIPS, is a taller man than I am ; and hereafter, when he and I are together, and the tallest man is complimented, I shall insist that he come forward and do the blushing.

By this standard, as I look around these tables, I recognize a great many taller men than I am, and I wish to hear from them all. They need be under no embarrassment. They are at home now. If they make any mistakes, the Faculty are responsible. They came here like clay in the hands of the potter, and it is the fault of the Faculty if they have not been moulded into great men. If any were spoiled in making—and I have heard of such instances—here, among our own brethren, is the place to charge it upon the Faculty, and to give them such proof of it that they will confess, and perhaps try to remedy it. Here we are, brethren, back in the old ship-yard from which we were originally launched ; and if we have any defects, let us go into the old dock and lay ourselves up for repairs. Let us all speak with freedom, and if we speak amiss let us call upon President LORD to show cause for the Faculty’s not being held responsible therefor.

We have been hearing of the influential, the potential men ; the officers of the National Cabinet, the Supreme Judges, the Senators, the Foreign Ambassadors, the Presidents and Professors of Colleges, the Missionaries, &c. &c., that have been graduates of Dartmouth College. All these references afford but additional cases where “ distance lends enchantment to the view.” Here, at these tables, I insist, are the jewels of Dartmouth College. Don’t look at me so earnestly, gentlemen ! You are the jewels ! Look at yourselves ! What have you done to add lustre to Dartmouth College ?

Preceding speakers have alluded to the distinction acquired by members of their respective classes. My class has not been out in the world long enough yet to do justice to itself without crowding its predecessors. We are not one and twenty yet. But we have the Governor of one of the most thriving States of the Confederacy—Hon. JAMES WILSON GRIMES, of Iowa. And I notice that another of that class has just been nominated as a candidate for Lt. Governor of Vermont—Hon. STODDARD B. COLBY. When we graduated, this would have been called extending our influence from one extremity of the Union to the other. But now, under our system of annexations and conquests, we can only say, from the centre to one extremity.

One instance of the influence of Dartmouth College upon the

youth of the West, and I must be excused. We have but little time here, and that should be divided among the largest number possible.

It is said that a western man never speaks any where without an allusion to his town, and that his hearers may always think themselves fortunate if he does not take out his map and ask them to purchase a lot. I believe Chicago has the best system of free schools in the world, with her school-houses extended to the remotest boundaries of the city, and open to all, without distinction of birth-place, color, or religion. Poor foreigners can step from the cars just bringing to them to our city, to any of our schools, and leave their children whilst they look up a house for a home. And all those schools, with their thousands of scholars, are under the immediate superintendence of J. C. DORE, Esq. And who will even undertake to calculate the immense advantages of his free instruction to the children of the poor foreigners and day laborers. Many of these children must receive from him such a stimulus for the paths of literature and science, as will induce them to come to his Alma Mater, and travel the paths which he has traveled before them so much to their profit.

Mr. President and Gentlemen: I hope to meet you all again, and as many more as can possibly be prevailed upon to be present at our future Anniversaries; and, whenever I do meet you, if I promptly respond to calls upon me to say a few words, it will be more from a desire to set a good example, than from a disposition to speak. For I really consider all the pleasure to be derived from these reunions to consist in the freedom and frankness with which we converse with each other; making the scene like that in the parents' house, when the numerous and long absent children return to greet each other upon life, health and prosperity; all forgetful of the past but its pleasures and instructions; all buoyant in the hopes of the future; all with a little something to tell for the delight of the household.

The President:—The Reverend Clergy. In their orisons be all our sins remembered.

Rev. Dr. PETERS, of New-York, is requested to speak of the Clergy.

Dr. A. Peters remarked that the scene to which he was here introduced was new and exciting, and yet it was old as his memory of College days. Since coming on to this ground, he said, I hardly know whether to consider myself old or young. I feel a kind of "Conflict of Ages" in my own person. It seems but a day since I was among the "*Hi Juvenes*" of the graduating class. On my arrival this morning I ran like a boy to find the old school-house, where I taught the village school during my "Senior vacation," and the way I governed sixty-one boys and girls was a caution. I looked, as I said, where the house was, and it was not there! It has been moved away bodily, and another of larger dimensions and more durable materials erected in its place.

Changes have come over the town, the people, the College. The

bridge across the river is burnt down, and Le Compt, who, we used to say, was like a Jew, because he kept the *Passover*, is gone from the toll-gatherer's hut; and I am reminded that it is forty years, save one, since I left these grounds, new fledged for life and labor. A whole generation has passed away,—except the remnants of it who mingle their scattered ranks with grey heads, and often with trembling steps, among their youthful successors,—and, young as I feel, and vigorous for new enterprise, I find myself among the old men who have left their grand children at home, to come here and renew their interest and sympathies in the scenes of College life.

I look for my teachers and only two remain [the venerable Professors Shurtleff and Muzzey, who were present] to cheer *us*, of those other days, with their familiar faces; and only one of my classmates is present, though full one half of the class of 1816 are still living to honor their Alma Mater in the walks of respectability and usefulness which they adorn.

But, Mr. President, you have called on me to respond to a sentiment of honor to the Clergy, which you have been pleased to announce. I would not be diverted from this topic by the clustering memories to which I have alluded, and which the present gathering is so fitted to awaken.

Old Dartmouth has ever been famous among the Colleges for the number of its graduates who have entered the clerical profession; and I am ever thankful for having been myself accounted worthy of a place in the Christian ministry. But this ministry, as a profession, needs no advocacy from me. It stands high and prominent among the callings of the educated men of our country, and is certainly second to no other in the sphere of its usefulness. And more than this, I do but justly magnify a holy calling, by saying that it surpasses all other professions, in its adaptedness to promote the highest interests of man, in all the conditions and prospects of his being. It has to do both with things seen and things not seen; but the crown of its joy will be received, and the consummation of its benefits will be sung, in everlasting songs in the life eternal.

We honor the Clergy in the faithful discharge of their duties. We honor the Institutions whose training contributes to fill the ranks of a profession so indispensable to human well being, both here and hereafter. The Clergy are a blessing to the land, as preachers of righteousness and examples of self-denying piety and beneficence. More than the members of any other profession, they are at the head of our educational institutions. They are among the most prominent of the leaders of the great benevolent enterprises of the age, and of the conductors of the religious press. And last, not least, they are the Missionaries of the Church to bear the cross of Christ to foreign lands.

Our Alma Mater, Mr. President, has contributed its full share to provide for all these departments of usefulness and of high endeavor. I may be permitted to say that while I was Corresponding Secretary

of the American Home Missionary Society, and had much to do with young men just entering the ministry, I had frequent occasion to admire the self-sacrificing enterprise of the sons of Dartmouth. If we wanted a man to occupy a position in advance of all others on our western borders—"to go to the jumping-off-place," as was sometimes said—we looked for him among the graduates of this Institution, and were sure to find him here, or among the sons of one of the northern Colleges.

Sir, I have said, very imperfectly, what perhaps I might have said better and more at large, had I been aware of your intention to call me up on this topic. If the Clergy of the sons of Dartmouth shall continue to honor their profession, as they have done in most cases, I doubt not that you, and all good men and true, who trace their early instruction to the same halls of learning and discipline, will not cease to honor them and to honor this home of our youthful and undying affections, on account of the large number it is raising up to preach glad tidings to the nations, and say unto Zion, "Thy God reigneth."

The President:—Railroads. We well remember that among their merits is that of giving facilities for this joyous reünion.

Mr. Edwards, of Keene, who has had as much as most men to do with their construction, will please answer for the railroads.

T. M. Edwards, Esq.: Mr. President,—I am not unmindful of the honor of being called out on this occasion, but I am, nevertheless, admonished, by various indications, that it would not be prudent for me at this time, if ever, to enter upon a measured speech.

The lateness of the hour, the vacated seats around me, the sense of satiety, if not of weariness, resting upon the faces, "*eorum qui supersunt adhuc*," to use a phrase quite familiar in these anniversary proceedings, all impress me with the truth and frequent applicability of that sage though somewhat trite maxim, that the better part of valor is discretion.

Beyond this I am not quite sure, you will permit me to say, that the subject which you have assigned to me is entirely in harmony with the topics which have engrossed attention through the day. We have been guests at a banquet exclusively literary and social. We have been engaged in communing in relation to the abstract; in relation to principles, truths and sentiments presented and illustrated in rich and glowing language, and interspersed with flashes of wit and humor. Now, every thing connected with the great feature in our system of internal improvements, to which your sentiment relates, is of a gross, material and merely practical character; and however much, even in its present imperfect state of development, it may have ministered, or may now be ministering, to the convenience and to the interest of individuals, and to the growth and prosperity of the country, it certainly presents no very fit theme for the poet or the orator, and could hardly prefer any other claim to admission into this presence, than the one to which you have referred in your opening

remarks, viz., the facilities which it has furnished for bringing together, from distant parts of the country, so many of the scattered sons of this ancient College, and reuniting them at this friendly festival on the scene of their early and most cherished associations. So far as the Railroad has contributed to this result, it is entitled, here and now, to our favorable estimation and to our gratitude.

In this connection I must ask to be indulged in a passing notice of your very civil reference to myself, as having had some experience in railroad matters. It is true that to the neglect and abandonment of a profession, the study and practice of which is a very usual sequence to college life, I have devoted some years to the charge of the construction and management of a railroad; and there was a time when I should have regarded an allusion to this fact, as being, as it is now intended, complimentary, having idly supposed that in aiding in achieving a public risk of this character, I was contributing something to an important public benefaction. But so disastrous has been the result of many of the railroad enterprises in our own and the neighboring States, to those with whom they have originated, and by whom they have been sustained and carried on to completion, as you, Sir, I think, have some reason to know; that so far from claiming any credit here for the part which I have enacted, I am rather disposed to ignore the whole subject, and to be quite content if my connection with them shall not subject me to a visitation similar to that which you felt it your duty to inflict, for a very different offence, upon the honorable gentleman from Ohio, to wit, an arraignment on indictment found against me by the body of this Association. If I were compelled to plead, I should be obliged to confess, and could offer nothing in extenuation but the fact, of having aided somewhat in the work before alluded to, of promoting and facilitating this pleasant gathering, and, perchance, of much larger assemblages to be had at our future triennial meetings. This I should expect would at least be received in mitigation of punishment.

Having said all that I desire to say, Mr. President, in relation to this special assignment, I should very willingly, if time permitted, briefly refer to a more prominent topic of the occasion, viz., the present condition of the Institution towards which we sustain a common relation, and in the welfare and prosperity of which we feel a common interest.

Having passed the last week here, in a service connected with the College, I have had a more favorable opportunity of becoming acquainted with its existing arrangements, and of renewing and brightening my recollection of its earlier condition, than I could hope to have enjoyed under other circumstances.

The comparison of the past and the present, to which this renewed acquaintance has necessarily led, shews obviously much change and much improvement.

Without derogating from the great credit which is justly due to its founders, and early and later managers, but tendering all honor

and gratitude to them for their timely, earnest, faithful and almost unrewarded labors, it is not too much, I believe, to say that there has been no period in its history when this great Educational Agency has possessed so large a power for usefulness, or has been so worthy of the regard, respect, and veneration of its Alumni, and of the confidence and patronage of the community, as at the present time. A largely increased number of students; enlarged accommodations; a more numerous corps of able and efficient instructors; more extensive libraries; other appliances for facilitating the acquisition of knowledge, newly added; a more comprehensive course of study; careful attention to moral as well as mental training; all furnish unerring indications that this Institution at least keeps pace with other kindred institutions, in the march of improvement, and prepares herself in advance to respond to a growing demand for a more varied, thorough, and profound collegiate education.

I will only add, Sir, that it must be the earnest wish of all her sons, as it is mine, that "Old Dartmouth" may long continue to occupy the honorable position which she has so long enjoyed among the literary institutions of the country.

The President:—We have heard from two of the learned professions. My friend, Mr. Ordronaux, furnishes a sentiment calling for a response from the other.

The Medical Profession. Bonus Medicus custos populi.

Dr. Mussey will please take us under his care.

Mr. President,—I had no expectation of being called upon for remarks upon this occasion. Had I been requested to give you a lecture on Surgical Anatomy, or to describe an amputation, or the method of dressing a broken leg, or of gouging an eye *secundum artem*, I would not hesitate to make the attempt, if the materials suitable for the demonstration were before me; but, vegetable eater as I have long been, and wholly untrained to making speeches over a table covered with the scattered and half devoured remains of animal carcasses, I must be permitted to decline the honor so kindly offered.

It is with no slight gratification that I have witnessed in this assembly the outpourings of wit under the inspiration of no other liquor than the pure beverage of Paradise. Why, Sir, this attic salt streams out at every pore, and fills our saloon with its sparkling atmosphere.

May every son of Dartmouth show his regard for the wine of Eden, by coming up to the altar of humanity and taking the solemn vow, *never to drink any other*.

The President:—As Dr. Mussey declines to make a demonstration, we turn to one of his successors, well known as a "*Great Medicine*," and ask Dr. Peaslee to favor us with a prescription or a lecture.

Dr. E. R. Peaslee: Mr. President,—As the venerable Professor

who has just spoken could better deliver a lecture on Surgery, I suppose that from me you would rather expect something on Anatomy and Physiology.

The *dispersive* tendencies of the Alumni of Dartmouth have been alluded to on this occasion, and I will venture to suggest an explanation of the fact. The students of this College are, most of them, fully developed men, physically, even when they enter College, the average age being three or four years more than in Yale and Harvard. Many of them have in fact previously acquired, by their own exertions, the means to defray the expenses of their education. Such men have of course acquired a habit of self-reliance; and when they have at length graduated and completed their professional studies, they go out determined and fully expecting to succeed; and they *keep going*, till they find a good place. As a body they seem to be thoroughly imbued with the sentiment expressed by Pope :

“The mouse that ever sticks to *one poor hole*,
Can never be a mouse of any soul.”

So that you have to look the whole world over to find them, but when you *do* find them, it is generally in the right place.

Perhaps, Sir, you may be inclined to demand an apology from me for comparing the men of Dartmouth—*men* in the noblest sense of the word—with the diminutive animal just mentioned. But I have good authority, poetical and otherwise, for so doing. In the first place, the men of Dartmouth are, every where I believe, the “muscle” of the community of which they form a part: and this word is from the Latin *mus-culus*, as I have had occasion to say to young men. Burns has said—

“The best laid plans of *mice and men*
Oft gang awry.”

And not much more elevated is Grainger’s invocation :

“Now, Muse, let ’s sing of rats !”

But it is not fit that I should occupy the time at this late hour. I propose, Sir, one of the Alumni of Dartmouth; who emigrated from this to another State, and who also *kept going* (upward) till he found himself in a very good place. I will not name him, lest I disturb that modesty which is as marked a characteristic as his rare merits. I propose—

The Royall Professor of Law in Harvard University : Our President on this occasion. In whatever state we find him, in whatever condition, in whatever position, he does honor alike to all. “Omnis Aristippum decuit color, et STATUS, et res.”

The Association here adjourned, to meet at the close of the public dinner on Commencement day: at which time the President, on taking the chair, said the members of the Association might now

expect to hear from their absent friends, Mr. Duncan being no longer among the number.

Wm. H. Duncan, Esq., one of the Committee of Arrangements, read the following letters.

[FROM REV. BENNET TYLER, D. D.]

EAST WINDSOR HILL, July 23, 1855.

Rev. S. G. BROWN,

Dear Sir: Yours of the 20th inst. is just received. It would give me great pleasure to attend your Commencement if the state of my health and other engagements would permit. But I must deny myself the satisfaction. I regret it the more, on account of the meeting of the Alumni, which I should rejoice to attend, with the hope of meeting many of my former pupils, some of whom I have not seen since "*Pro auctoritate mihi commissa,*" *eos admittebam* "*ad gradum primum in artibus.*" I need not say how cordially I should greet them, as well as many others of the earlier and later graduates. Dartmouth may well be proud of her sons. I trust they will not be wanting in affection for their mother.

The few years of my life which were devoted to the interest of the College have awakened in my breast a regard for its welfare which I shall not cease to cherish while life lasts. That it may ever be the seat of sound learning and the centre of a healthful moral influence, is the prayer of

Yours most affectionately,

B. TYLER.

[FROM HON. RICHARD FLETCHER.]

BOSTON, July 25, 1855.

Dear Sir: When your favor, dated the 21st, and mailed the 23d instant, reached me, it was too late for me to return an answer, or go in person to Hanover in season for your dinner to-day. If your kind letter had been received at an earlier period, it would have given me much pleasure to have been present at the meeting of the Alumni.

With thanks for your obliging communication,

I am, very respectfully and truly yours,

RICHARD FLETCHER.

WM. H. DUNCAN, Esq.

[FROM HON. DANIEL M. CHRISTIE.]

DOVER, July 23, 1855.

Dear Sir: I have yours of the 20th, in which you, in behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, extend to me a polite and particular invitation to be present at the approaching Anniversary of the Alumni of Dartmouth College.

It would be highly gratifying to me to be with you on the occasion, but indispensable engagements will deprive me of that pleasure.

With assurances of much respect for the Committee, and the kindest regard for yourself,

I am your much obliged friend and servant,

DANIEL M. CHRISTIE.

WM. H. DUNCAN, Esq., Hanover.

[FROM REV. JOHN WHEELER, D. D.]

BURLINGTON, July 23, 1855.

TO W. H. DUNCAN, Esq.,

Dear Sir: I regret that it will not be in my power to comply with the request of the Committee to be present at the gathering of the Alumni, at Dartmouth, this week. But, though absent in body, I would be present in spirit, and, by these presents, beg you to greet the multitude of brothers with the warmest expressions of fellowship.

I would add a word respecting my personal historical recollections of the period of my connection with College, (from 1812 to 1816) but it will be so much better done by the accomplished orator of the day, who I learn intends to speak of historical matters, that I will only say it was a *transition period* of the Institution; one in which, rising from her couch of quiet growth, she cast off the bonds of childhood, and stepped forth with the vigorous development of a youthful Titan. And then "shaking her invincible locks," she seized her spear and went forth to battle for the rights of all the institutions of civilization and culture, that pertain to the being and growth of our beloved country. I now look upon her, irrespective of times, of parties, of persons, political or ecclesiastical, as then resisting a particular statute, in a lawful way, only that she might repose in the bosom of that law, which makes possible the freedom of social life, and which constitutes the harmony of cultivated humanity. The men who resolved for her; the men who counselled for her; the men who pleaded for her; and the men, who, in the Temple of National justice, determined and decided for her, are gone; — all gone, down to the dead. But she lives. She lives, the symbolic keystone in the arch of religious, literary and commercial institutions which are free; and from her high eminence now shines, radiant and effulgent, like a morning star, in her literary beauty. Thus she will live while her Alumni study her lessons and practice her virtues.

Your gathering is an occasion, when literary men, and great men, and benefactors, as such, are remembered; but a day in which the men of physical labor and toil are usually forgotten. But it is by the sweat of their brow that the ease and the leisure, by which culture becomes possible to social life, is obtained. Talk as we may, think as we may, they substitute the *πρυσι* on which society erects her structures, and by which she maintains her physical life. I call

to mind one of these men, who learned his letters and his catechism by "light-wood candles;" who was but six weeks in any school, until by his own labor he paid for six months' tuition and board at an Academy, under the care of "Master Hubbard," afterward Professor of Mathematics in our College; Professor Hubbard, a man who should not be forgotten; whose whole being, instead of working toward right lines and rectangles, was ever imparting a life of the affections, in graceful ellipses and curvilinear lines, and now and then parabolic curves of perhaps indefinite extension. Under this affectionate teacher, the young man made such progress that he soon taught school; but finally, with axe in hand, entered the woods of a mountain town, felled the trees for a farm, cast in the seed, and waited for his harvest. Exchanges were made, and he was soon a country merchant, and was present at the commencement of Dartmouth College in 1816. After the exercises of the day, as he was sitting in his chair, and bidding adieu to a Professor of the College, he said, "If the Trustees intend to test their rights by a suit at law, and should want means, I have a *thousand* dollars at their command."

The late Professor Adams has said if it had not been for this unsolicited, unsuspected, unthought of aid, the great case of Dartmouth College would not have been commenced.

And the late Charles Marsh has spoken of the offer, which was at once transmitted to the Board of Trustees, then in session, as a light breaking upon blank darkness. It was a prophecy of hope, which at once fixed the resolution and determined the course of the Trustees.

What would the College now be without the aid of the "Industrial class;" without Chandler, and Appleton, and Evans, and Phillips—what would our students be without the numerous off-shoots from their class, and especially without their material aid in the progress of their studies?

I beg to give you, as a sentiment for the occasion, and for every Commencement of Dartmouth College—

The Industrial Classes of Society:—The strength of its physical life, the πον σιῶ of its structures—the roots which have nourished us all.

Yours with highest regard,

JOHN WHEELER.

At the close of the reading of this letter the name of the munificent donor being called for, the President said he understood it was JOHN B. WHEELER, Esq., late of Orford, the father of President WHEELER.

[FROM RT. REV. CARLTON CHASE, D. D.]

CLAREMONT, July 24, 1855.

My dear Sir: It is with difficulty I yield to the circumstances which deprive me of the pleasure of joining, in happy reünion, with the Alumni of an Institution whose son I am proud in claiming to be.

Such an assemblage of cultivated minds, drawn together by the noble sympathies of kindred scholarship; coming in, too, as well from the outposts of social progress, laden with the fresh observations of learned adventure, as from the various positions of honor and usefulness in the old fields of knowledge, enriched with stores of experience and wisdom, cannot fail to present an occasion for refined and exalted interchanges, such as does not often turn up in the course of our pursuits.

In contemplation of such an assemblage I feel impressed with the thought of the momentous issues which may depend on the character of the individuals who compose it, and on the use they make of the elevation to which knowledge has raised them. There is, indeed, intrinsic beauty in truth, which is of itself a reward to the scholar,—but if there be not also power and use, the moral world is a chimera.

I trust I shall be pardoned for thus briefly and hastily giving expression to the feelings which the habits of my sacred profession incline me to indulge in view of your meeting to-morrow. Let it be remembered, that the true scholar is one who receives light to yield it again.

I pray you, my dear Sir, in my behalf, to present to the brotherhood the assurance of the high consideration and respect with which I am their, as also your most obliged servant,

CARLTON CHASE, *Class of 1817.*

WM. H. DUNCAN, Esq., *Chairman of Com., &c.*

[FROM HON. JOHN AIKEN.]

ANDOVER, July 21, 1855.

WM. H. DUNCAN, Esq.,

My dear Sir: I have just received your note, written in behalf of the Committee of Arrangements of the Society of Alumni of Dartmouth College, inviting me to be present at the approaching Anniversary; or, if that cannot be, to furnish some memorial for the dinner hour.

Let me assure you and your brethren of the Committee, and my brethren of the Society, that it would afford me very great pleasure to be present. It so happens, however, that the Trustees of Phillips Academy, of which body I have the honor to be a member, will hold their Annual Meeting on Tuesday next, and will occupy, in their necessary business, the whole of that day. I deem it my duty to attend this meeting, so that I could, at the very earliest, reach Hanover on the afternoon of Wednesday, after your dinner hour.

Though thus held back from your festivities, I shall be with you in spirit, and vie with the very best of you in crowning with honors our Alma Mater.

The occasion will be consecrated by many tender and precious recollections. My own College life, from 1815 to 1819, was filled with incidents of great moment, and to those immediately concerned, of thrilling interest.

Of the Hon. and Reverend Trustees of that day not one remains, and of my instructors in the College, Dr. SHURTLEFF, and Dr. BOND, of Philadelphia, are the only survivors. To the memory of the honored dead your orator has, no doubt paid the deserved and appropriate tribute. In passing let me thank Prof. BROWN for coming to the rescue in your hour of extremity. Though I thank him, let me tell him there is one topic appropriate to this occasion, to which he cannot do justice. He cannot speak in fitting terms of the character and doings of my loved and honored President, FRANCIS BROWN. This lack of service, made almost necessary by the relations which you orator sustains to the subject, I would, if I might, supply.

Pres. Brown entered on the duties of his office in the autumn of 1815, and closed his active duties as a teacher at the Commencement of 1819. His inaugural discourse, some portions of which I can still repeat, was in Latin, written, as was said, in part at least, at the taverns on his way to Hanover. He was in the prime of early manhood, being but 31 years old, and yet he had the dignity, the maturity and the wisdom of riper years.

In person Pres. Brown was singularly dignified and commanding : one of the very noblest specimens of manhood that my eyes ever beheld. And yet his dignity sat upon him so gracefully, that the beholder discovered at once that it was but one of the native properties of the outer man, and no exaggerated exponent of the dignity of the inner. His large, full blue eye, and genial, beaming face, invited confidence, yet his whole expression was so sagacious and so penetrating, that no student ever dreamed of deceiving him, or presumed on unbecoming familiarity with him. When the occasion required he could be *severe, terribly severe*. This severity, however, had nothing of personal anger in it, but savored rather of grief, or wounded love. To govern young men was his natural and easy work. The language of command he never, or seldom used. A *wish*, or *request*, expressed in the mildest and kindest form, was fully equivalent to a command, and we all took delight in pleasing him, for we both loved and honored him.

His talent for teaching was not inferior to his talent for governing, and this talent found occasion for abundant exercise. During his whole administration, the entire instruction of the senior class devolved on him, and from the end of his first year till his health began to fail, he heard the junior or sophomore class one recitation each day. For all these recitations he carefully prepared himself, so that no slipshod preparation on the part of a student could escape unexposed. If a topic should be started, or a book be referred to, with which the President was not familiar, he would, by sagacious questioning, draw out what the student knew of that topic or book, and then, by his sharper analysis, his keener and more penetrating insight, or his power of broader generalization, he was prepared to discuss the subject in a way that satisfied the student who furnished all the material, that the President understood the matter much

better than he did himself. The mind of Pres. Brown was eminently sagacious and comprehensive, as well as discriminating.

Pres. Brown could not in truth be called a greatly learned man. Occupied as he had been, and at his period of life, this could not be. Yet he was a man of vigorous and cultivated mind, and a scholar. And he was capable of appreciating good learning, and all his influences tended toward a sound, thorough, and comprehensive scholarship. Accordingly in his day, though the Faculty of instruction was very inadequate, and greatly over taxed, consisting as it did of the President, two Professors and one or two Tutors, and the facilities in the way of libraries and apparatus exceedingly small, there was much earnest and effective study in the College. The Catalogue will show *small classes*, but a large proportion of *good scholars*.

The official life of the President was one of ceaseless toil. Vacations brought no rest to him. This was his season for begging money to meet the urgent wants of the College, and for taking counsel for its welfare. During the vacation of my Junior year, President Brown visited my native town, in the south part of the State, and collected of the farmers, in little sums, about \$100, to help the College along in its deep distress and poverty.

The eminent legal counsel of the College had a very high opinion of President Brown. No man could measure him more accurately than the late JEREMIAH MASON. *He* regarded Mr. Brown as a very remarkable man; remarkable especially for the sagacity, clearness and strength of his judgment. More than once I have heard Mr. Mason say, "Mr. Brown understood the College Case thoroughly, and could have argued it with eminent ability."

In early manhood Mr. Brown was called to preside over a Board composed of men of great ability, dignity and wisdom; and yet, in all these elements of character, young as he was, he was not a whit behind the very chiefest of them.

I close with this sentiment:

"The Memory of PRESIDENT BROWN. It is embalmed in the hearts of all his pupils."

Wishing for my brethren a most happy meeting, I subscribe myself,

Your and their friend and brother,

JOHN AIKEN.

[FROM HON. RUFUS CHOATE.]

BOSTON, July 25, 1855.

My dear Sir: Your letter inviting me to attend the meeting of the Alumni of Dartmouth College reached me at so late an hour that I could not accept the invitation, nor suitably express my regret that I was unable to do so.

I have heard with great pleasure of the proposal to form an Association of our Alumni, which should mark their memory and their love of our Alma Mater by a meeting at every Commencement, and

had formed a general intention to be present at the first. I cannot doubt that the idea will be carried out, and that it will realize all the expectations of those who conceived it. Certainly my own affection for the now almost ancient school, and my sense of obligation to its teachings and its care, lose no strength as the happy days of my life there recede from me, nor does any thing which I have learned of other Colleges depress my estimation of its rank and claims. These I am sure are the sentiments of all the children of Dartmouth. To express and publish them, as well as to renew and strengthen the ties which unite all fellow students, will give a practical object and a real interest to these annual festivals. I hope some time to take my share in them.

I am very cordially,

Your friend and servant,

RUFUS CHOATE.

DANIEL BLAISDELL *and others, Committee of Alumni.*

[FROM HON. GEORGE W. NESMITH.]

FRANKLIN, July 23, 1855.

WM. H. DUNCAN, Esq.:

I thank you, my dear Sir, for your kind invitation to be present at the ensuing Anniversary of the Alumni of Dartmouth College. My business engagements must compel me to decline your invitation, as I shall be called to Malone, N. Y., on that day.

I appreciate highly your new Association. I can imagine nothing but pleasure and utility to flow from it. I hope on some future occasion to be able to participate in your enjoyments.

Allow me to suggest to the wise managers of your organization the importance of establishing, for the use of all the sons of Dartmouth, a very broad and perfect platform upon which we can safely stand without jostling any off. We can see around us many beautiful erections of modern philanthropists, and more modern politicians, and we can copy therefrom all that is useful, and still leave much uncopied. But let me suggest to the wisdom that shall this year be assembled, if this annual feast is to be continued on our side of the Connecticut, the manifest propriety of extending forthwith a very perfect *wooden* platform from the house formerly inhabited by a renowned man by the name of Le Compt, thence westerly to the premises of the celebrated Dr. Lewis, in the ancient town of Norwich. As we would save the bodies of all our learned and unlearned fellow citizens from the peril of death by drowning, you are permitted to draw upon me for my plank to finish up this model and much needed platform.

Yours forever,

GEORGE W. NESMITH.

[FROM RICHARD B. KIMBALL, ESQ.]

WEST LEBANON, July 23, 1855.

My dear Duncan: Will you present my thanks to the Committee of Arrangements for the invitation you were kind enough to communi-

cate, to be present at the exercises of the Society of the Alumni on Wednesday next. I am sorry I cannot be with you; and I request you distinctly to understand that it is because I must be on my way to New-York, and not because you have no wine at dinner; which you distinctly insinuate may be to me a trifling inconvenience! I am sure I should not notice this innuendo, except that your note, being semi-official in its character, it seems to me I am bound to repel it. There are many grave reasons why wine should not be furnished at a public dinner. Tell me, is it not expected that every guest shall be in a situation to get on his feet when called up? But what saith the ancient Roman?

“Magnum hoc vitium vino est,
Pedes captat primum.”

Therefore away with the seductive article! Let us not offend our weaker brethren—weaker in legs, I mean, of course.

Seriously, it is an aggravation that I must leave here just as the children of “Old Dartmouth”—God bless her—are assembling for an interchange of happy thoughts and pleasing memories. Perhaps you will allow me to propose the following, that I may seem, to myself at least, to take some trifling part in your arrangements:

Liberality of Sentiment: One of the softening graces of our humanity. May the Alumni of Dartmouth retain and cherish this offspring of an enlightened education.

Yours truly,

RICHARD B. KIMBALL.

WM. H. DUNCAN, Esq., Hanover, N. H.

[FROM HON. HARRY HIBBARD.]

BATH, July 25, 1855.

My dear Sir: Through accident, your letter in behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, inviting me to be present at the meeting of the Alumni of Dartmouth to-day, has but just been received. It comes at an hour too late for me to say more than express the regret I feel at my inability, by reason of other engagements, to be with you upon an occasion which must draw around it so many incentives to enjoyment, not only from the intellectual and physical festivities of the present, but from the renewed associations and recalled memories of the cherished past.

Have the kindness to tender my acknowledgements to the other members of the Committee, and be assured that I am,

Most truly yours,

HARRY HIBBARD.

WILLIAM H. DUNCAN, Esq.

The President:—You are aware, gentlemen, that a short time since Alma Mater opened a little school — not by any means an infant school — which at the present rate of progress bids fair to rival not only Moor's Indian Charity School, but even the Classical Department itself. I give you, "*The Chandler School of Science and the Arts*," and call upon the Visitors of that Foundation for a response.

F. B. Hayes, Esq., one of the Board of Visitors of the Chandler School, replied :

Mr. President:—In obedience to your call, and at the request of my associate, I rise to respond to the sentiment with which you have honored the Scientific Department of this College. At this festival, when your Alma Mater is surrounded by her own distinguished children, her adopted sons might well be silent ; and I had hoped, Sir, to have been permitted undisturbedly to listen to the words of wisdom or pleasant mirth falling from the lips of those about me, till now your order requires me to say something for the Chandler School.

It perhaps may not be known to your guests, Mr. President, that the founder of this School owed to the sons of Dartmouth the first earnest desire, which afterwards grew into a determination, to obtain a liberal education. As Mr. Chandler informed me shortly before his death, he was a laborer on a farm at Fryeburgh, Maine, at about the time he was twenty-one years of age. One evening he was sent on an errand to an inn in Fryeburgh, where he found two young men conversing upon an interesting topic in a manner which attracted his attention. He listened with deep interest to their discussion, and, upon leaving the house, inquired who these young men were, and was informed that they were students of Dartmouth College, returning to their homes after the close of a term. As Mr. Chandler related, in his walk to his home he reflected upon the subject of the conversation he had listened to, and felt keenly his inability to think and converse as those young men did, which deficiency he very properly attributed to the defects of his education. He said that it flashed across his mind that he must obtain a collegiate education, so as to have the pleasure and power these young men possessed in their intellectual attainments. After this determination, there were many difficulties in the way of accomplishing his wishes, but these difficulties vanished before his energetic character. He continued his agricultural labors, and interested his friends upon the subject dearest to his heart, until he procured the means and privilege of entering Phillips Exeter Academy, on the foundation provided for indigent students. His zeal in literary pursuits commended him to his friends, and with their assistance he obtained by loans what was necessary to defray his expenses while a student at Harvard College. After his graduation he was for many years a successful teacher, and entering at middle life into mercantile pursuits as a partner with one of his old pupils, he ac-

quired an ample property, with which he determined to benefit his native State. The disposition of his wealth was made by him when he had given the subject many years of reflection, and was the result of his best judgment, formed after consultation with his friends, and earnest and frequent prayer that the Source of wisdom would guide him to a right decision. By his will, having suitably provided for numerous members of his family, and kindly remembered some of his friends, and contributed to objects of charity, he made the munificent bequest of fifty thousand dollars to this College, and the residue of his estate, amounting to more than thirty thousand dollars, he gave to the New-Hampshire Asylum for the Insane. Thus did this excellent man, having no children of his own, leave with Christian benevolence a rich inheritance to the youth, and the helpless and afflicted of his native State.

It gives me pleasure, Mr. President, to say for myself and associate, that we find, from our own observation as well as by the report of others, the Chandler School is doing its work well. It has not been the object, as you know, Sir, of its officers and managers to hold this department before the public with flattering promises of what it can do, and ostentatious display of what it has done. It has been supposed wiser that the progress of the School should be actually sure and steady, rather than apparently brilliant in the outset, lest it should have a fitful existence, and disappoint in the end the hopes of its friends and public expectation. By pursuing the more careful policy in its management, we trust we shall lay a deep and firm foundation for it, on which we can build a superstructure as enduring and beautiful as truth and virtue. The practical usefulness of this department will, it is hoped, be soon apparent to all. Its progress will be hand in hand with the Academical Department of the College, and all the Alumni and friends of the College will continue to feel a worthy pride in the undiminished honor and extending usefulness of this venerable Seat of Learning.

Having thus unworthily spoken to the subject of your sentiment, Mr. President, I should resume my seat, if the remembrance of the words of the orator of yesterday, the interesting letters that have just been read, and this Anniversary, did not excite in me emotions which compel me to ask your indulgence for a few moments longer.

This day completes the fiftieth Anniversary since there were graduated at this College two young men who were room-mates through their entire collegiate life, and were particularly noted by their fellow students for the friendship they manifested toward each other. Never did an unkind word pass from the lips, nor an unworthy thought rest for a moment in the breast of either of them injurious to the other. In scholarship they stood together, sharing equally in the highest honors of the College, the one delivering the Salutatory and the other the Valedictory oration before those who were gathered in these halls half a century ago to-day. Afterwards one was appointed to a tutorship, and the other to the preceptorship of Moor's School at this

College. In after life their paths were separated, but their hearts were undivided, and no one rejoiced more at the distinction of another, than did the one when his former chum was promoted to the elevated seat of President of the College. The friend rejoiced not only that his classmate had attained this dignity, but that the newly elected President was competent to fill, with honor to the College and the country, that high position during the most troublous and exciting times Dartmouth has experienced. I allude, as it has already occurred to you, Sir, to the season of the presidency of that distinguished man whose name the orator of yesterday could not utter, from sentiments of filial delicacy, but whose name on this Anniversary should receive full honor. At this fraternal meeting, when it is permissible to speak of matters of a personal nature, I hope I may be allowed, honored as I am in bearing the name of both these friends and classmates, to speak reverent words of the friend of the parent who would have, (how gladly!) if living, discharged the duty of friendship.

From my earliest youth, Sir, I have heard of the moral purity of the late President BROWN, and how well he performed his part when he was fighting in the front rank with great men in the cause of Dartmouth College. Not only from a parent's lips, but from others well qualified to form correct opinions upon the subject, the same story has been told me, all in honor of the energy, the prudence, the unflagging and self-sacrificing devotion of the late President. In an interview with Dartmouth's most distinguished son, I had a very interesting account of her great case, and of the distinguished service President Brown rendered the College. It is proper that we should preserve in fresh remembrance the services of the great and good men, who, doing what they could in their time, have passed to their reward; and let us never forget, certainly we will not on this occasion, those who have been the founders and distinguished benefactors of this Institution.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I desire to offer as a sentiment,—

Ever increasing and enduring prosperity to Dartmouth College, founded (to use the words of Mr. Webster) by Eleazer Wheelock, re-founded by Francis Brown.

The President :—Is there any further business before the Association, which now stands upon its adjournment.

Professor Alpheus Crosby made some remarks upon the great interest and enjoyment of the occasion,—classmates meeting classmates, and friends friends, in many cases after a long lapse of years, the departed brought to remembrance and their memory honored, and the strange, romantic history of the College reviewed,—*Vox clamatis in deserto*. He then remarked upon our obligation to impart, so far as we could, of what we had ourselves enjoyed, to those of our brethren who had been unable to come up to our festival, and made the following motions to that end :

1. "That the best thanks of the Association be presented to Pro-

fessor Brown for his valuable and eloquent Address, and that a copy of it be requested for the press."

2. "That a collection be now taken up for the purpose of defraying the expense of printing the Address, with an accompanying Sketch of the Proceedings of the Meeting, and sending a copy of the same to each Alumnus whose address can be ascertained."

These motions were seconded and adopted unanimously.

The President:—The present Association of the Alumni had its origin in a movement of the Class of 1827. It is highly proper that the motion for an enduring memorial of its proceedings should come from a member of that Class.

I give you as the closing sentiment, "*Our Alma Mater. We have diligently endeavored to strengthen the bonds which bind us to her, by faithfully complying with her wishes, expressed through her President, that we should have a good time.*"

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